Saturday, July 28, 2012 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 230 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DN BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

'Let the Games begin'

'Greatest show on Earth' opens in London town

LONDON—Thousands of bells rang out across Britain as the countdown to the 2012 Olympics reached its finale with a colorful opening ceremony—a three-hour spectacle—ahead of 17 days of competitions that will create heroes, fire national pride and shatter dreams.

Some 10,000 athletes from more than 200 countries will share the thrill of victory or the despair of defeat as they fight for a total of 302 medals in 26 events during the sporting extravaganza.

GET THE ACT

Over 100 athletes busted for using illegal drugs • Heat wave may slow down runners, say UK savants / A13

THIRD TIME Olympic Rings hang from the Tower Bridge beyond a set of rings on a barge floating on the River Thames on Thursday in London. The 2012 Olympics officially starts today in London, the only city in the world to host the Summer Olympics for the third time. AP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

US raps Sino garrison plan

THE UNITED STATES has criticized Chinese plans for a military garrison on an island in the contested West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) and said all claimants should resolve their disputes through diplomacy.

China on Tuesday declared a new municipality on tiny Woody Island in the Paracel Islands claimed by Vietnam, a move protested by Hanoi and Manila.

China has also sent a large fleet of fishing vessels to the Paracels and the Spratly archipelago in the middle of West Philippine Sea to show its economic dominance in the contested waters.

Twenty boats from the fleet of 30 fishing vessels had moved close to the Philippine border at Pag-asa Island, causing enough alarm that Maritimlaqua Rep. Rodolfo Biazon, formerly chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, suggested the Philippines ask the United Nations for a peacekeeping force to prevent armed confrontations between Manila and Beijing over their conflicting claims in the West Philippine Sea.

But Malacañang and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday rejected the suggestion of Biazon, chair of the House defense committee, preferring to stick to the Aquino administration's diplomatic, political and legal tack in finding a solution to the territorial

US RAPS A6

HOMETOWN SUPPORT Divers perform synchronized underwater swimming at Manila Ocean Park on Friday to show support for the Filipino Olympians competing in the 2012 London Olympics. NOEL CELIS/AFP

Tiniest man in PH team bears heaviest burden

By Artemio T. Engracia
News Editor

LONDON—Of the 11 Filipinos seeing action in the 30th Olympic Games, the tiniest man also carries the heaviest burden.

Mark Anthony Barriga, the lone boxer in the delegation, weighs only 49 kilograms (107.8 lbs.), placing him in the light flyweight division of the boxing competitions here.

Boxing had been the Philippines' only source of hope in previous Olympic delegations, but that aspiration appeared to be almost beyond reach with only one Filipino fighter qualifying for the Olympics.

Arriving recently from Cardiff in Wales where he trained for three weeks, Barriga is in London with enough confidence and experience to raise the expectations of his coach, Roel Velasco, and broadcaster-turned-amateur-boxing-official.

TINIEST, A12

Barriga, Cabang picked to end PH medal drought • US swim team's spoof video goes viral on the Web / A10

Heavy betting ranges from rains to condoms

LONDON—What are the odds of a UFO sighting during the London Olympics opening ceremony? Or of the final torch bearer tripping as they ascend to light the flame? Or would you prefer a more traditional wager on the battle for gold between Russia and Spain in synchronized swimming duos?

London betting houses will offer odds on almost anything, including all 26 sports at the Games, from the 100-meter dash to fencing, from diving to soccer. The industry expects to

MANY, A17

'No need to heal, nothing to fix'

By Philip C. Tubeza and Jeriane Aning

APPOINTING an outsider Chief Justice would be like naming a civilian, instead of a general, to lead an army to war, according to Associate Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno. President Aquino's first appointee to the Supreme Court.

Sereno also dismissed suggestions that the high court was wracked by bitter divisions following the impeachment and removal of Chief Justice Renato Corona, such that this would regain the appointment of a "healing" Chief Justice.

"What is there to heal? There is nothing to fix," she blithely told the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) panel of interviewers that was taking her measure as one of the aspirants for the post vacated by Corona.

NO NEED, A4

Soldiers 'refused to leave each other'

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—"They stuck together and refused to leave each other."

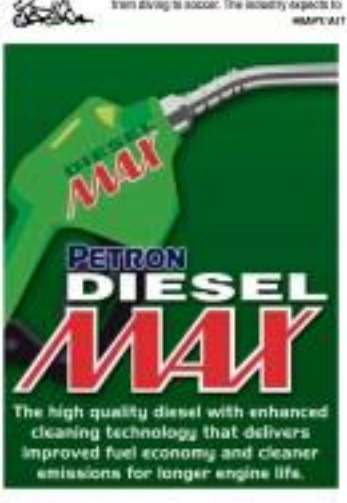
That and not operational lapses, according to the military, was the reason why many soldiers were killed or wounded in a clash with Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan province on Thursday.

Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson for the military's Western Mindanao Command, said 10 Scout Rangers were killed and 17 others were wounded in daylong clashes with the bandits in Sumisip town in Basilan.

It was the largest military loss since 19 soldiers were killed in clashes with Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas in Al Barka, Basilan, in October last year.

In August 2009, 23 soldiers died in the military's worst loss in a single engagement with Abu Sayyaf bandits, also in

SOLDIERS, A2



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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern areas, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms brought about by the Habagat (Southwest Monsoon). The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Isolated Rainshowers	Cloudy with Rain
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Vigan	Cloudy with Rain
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Tabaco	Cloudy with Rain
Ilocos	Mostly Cloudy	Pagadian	Cloudy with Rain
Dagupan	Mostly Cloudy	Cotabato	Cloudy with Rain
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rain	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rain
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rain	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rain
Iloilo	Cloudy with Rain	Davao	Cloudy with Rain

Second FRONTPAGE

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LOTTO: 5PM Tues/Sat/LOTTO, aired on 24/7 PI Matters

GMA gunning for 2nd House term

By Christian V. Esguerra and Sonnie Domia, Inquirer Central Luzon

DESPITE her illness and a string of criminal cases against her, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will seek a second consecutive term as Pampanga representative in next year's midterm elections.

"She will run," Arroyo's spokesperson Elena Bautista-Horn told the Inquirer in Filipino, referring to a conversation she had with Arroyo on Thursday, the day the Pampanga representative posted bail of ₱1 million for her compassionate freedom.

Arroyo failed to reach voters she nominated to Pampanga provincial government in her district yesterday, two days after she was released from hospital detention.

"I can do more," she said to Kapampangans to supporters who met her at Bahay Tuluan Elementary School in Porac.

Arroyo arrived in Porac shortly before 2 p.m. yesterday. In the morning, flush from a visit to an alternative detention center in Tagaytay City, she visited the graves of her parents, former President Diosdado Macapagal and Evangelina, in the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City before lunch, she counted to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, where she had been detained for eight months for a physical therapy session.

The people of Porac gave her a rousing welcome. Over a thousand people, including school children, chanted "GMA! GMA!" They held up placards expressing their love for her.

The crowd cheered and clapped when Arroyo complied to Kapampangan, "We will never part ways."

Wearing a thin blue jacket and soft brown wrapped around her neck and hips, Arroyo walked slowly past a two-room school building built when she was president. She shook hands with people along the way and waved to the children.

On stage, she struggled to speak to a loud voice and with the aid of a microphone remarked in Kapampangan: "There is still justice left in the Philippines. There is respect for the accused and for the rules of evidence," she said.

Judge Jesus Mupas of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court had allowed her to post a ₱1-million bond after ruling that the government prosecutor who charged her with electoral sabotage had failed to present enough evidence to indict her.

The Sandiganbayan yesterday junked a motion of the Ombudsman to order her arrested again on a separate charge of plunder, saying the Ombudsman did not follow due process. (See related story below.)

Arroyo said her supporters would be by her in that, she said, she could "face the challenge."

"Prepara in the second district will win. Sinan," she vowed. "I will neglect you."

Arroyo enumerated the projects she brought to the district when she was president and assured her audience that she had "always worked for the district," even while under hospital detention.

Mayors Jerry Dolayo (Candaba), Consolito de la Cruz (Porac), Ricardo Ramos (Guagua) and Eduardo Guerrero (Floridablanca) welcomed Arroyo at the school.

Guerrero said it was close to him that Arroyo was "back to work."

Pelayo, who is also president of the Pampanga Mayors' League, said Arroyo "wanted to go back to work since last Wednesday but was discouraged by (her daughter) Luli."

Given her hardworking style unless she was president, work could turn out to be good therapy for Arroyo, Pelayo said.

Arroyo gave three boxes of plastic mineral water to Schulyn Lumangan, the school principal. She visited a classroom and interacted briefly with the students who swarmed their blackboard with 'di pasaon autograph list.

She left without granting media interviews. She proceeded to her house in Barangay San Nicolas 1 in Lubao town. She was accompanied by her son, Ang Galing party-list Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo.

She was slated to stay overnight, attend Mass at 8 a.m. today then drive back to her La Vista residence in Quezon City.

Horn said Arroyo might also attend the session at the House of Representatives on Monday depending on her condition after another scheduled therapy session at the VMMC in the morning. Last Wednesday, members of her staff were donning her office at the House of Congress.

Thursday's visit to an alternative medicine facility was recommended by Arroyo's sister, Cielo Salgado. Horn said Arroyo was likely to go through more self-therapy there.

Horn said therapy was among the treatments Arroyo was supposed to undergo had she been allowed to travel abroad last year, Horn said.

To help in Arroyo's recovery, the people around her have outnumbered both of politics and her purported persecutors by the Aquino administration. "Positive energy only... happy thoughts only," Horn said. With Inquirer Central Luzon staff and Julie M. Aurelio

Court holds arrest warrant vs GMA

By Dona Z. Pazolagen

NO ARREST warrant was issued by the Sandiganbayan against former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with the plunder case recently filed against her.

Instead, the antigraft court's First Division granted Arroyo's request to suspend hearings until the Office of the Ombudsman had decided on her motion to dismiss the charges against her.

Associate Justices Efren de la Cruz, Rodolfo Ponferrada and Rafael Lagos signed the six-page resolution issued at 3:43 p.m. yesterday.

Arroyo and nine others have been charged with plunder for the alleged misuse of P366 million in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds from 2008 to 2010.

The Ombudsman asked the Sandiganbayan antigraft court to issue an arrest warrant for Arroyo after she was freed on bail on Wednesday by Pasay Regional Court Judge Jesus Mupas, who is hearing the electoral sabotage case against the former president.

The antigraft court directed the Ombudsman to give due course to Arroyo's motion for reconsideration of the Ombudsman's July 10 decision to file the plunder case.

The case was filed in the Sandiganbayan on July 16.

The others charged with Arroyo were former PCSO chair Sergio Valencia; former general manager Rosario Uriarte; and PCSO directors Manuel Mirasol, Jose Tarce V. Raymundo Sequera and the late Antonio Kalaw, and budget officer Benigno Aguas.

Senior Commission on Audit Chair Reynaldo Villar and former COA head Ingrid Ford Unit head Nilda Pama were also charged.

In his ruling, the Sandiganbayan upheld the argument of Arroyo's defense lawyers that the preliminary investigation was incomplete because the charge was filed in the court before they received their copies of the Ombudsman's decision.

"The filing of a motion for consideration is an integral part of the preliminary investigation proper. There is no dispute that the information was filed before the law affording the accused his right to file a motion for reconsideration," the Sandiganbayan said.

Arroyo's lawyers said the former president received her copy of the Ombudsman ruling on July 20 and that they filed a motion for reconsideration within the allowed five-day period.

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Aussie envoy lauds pact with PH

By Tara Quinsaat
And Jean Ristroph Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE PHILIPPINES' ratification of enhanced defense agreement with Australia reinforces the strong ties between the two countries, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Bill Tweddell said yesterday.

Delivering the Philippine Senate's ratification of the Philippines-Australia Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOFA) on Monday, Tweddell cited the shared national defense history of the two countries.

"I am very pleased that the Philippines has ratified the agreement. Ratification underlines the strength of the bilateral defense relationship," Tweddell said in a statement.

Australia has a proud history of defense cooperation with the Philippines. It is an important part of the strong and expanding bilateral relationship which today here continues to flourish," he added.

The Philippine Senate on Monday ratified Sorfa, paving the way for its enforcement five years since it first signed an agreement with Australia.

Australia said the Sorfa will cover issues concerning the exchange of troops between the two countries, including immigration and customs procedures, criminal and civil jurisdiction over visiting troops and an exemption for visiting forces from uniform while in the partner country.

"Once in force, the agreement will provide a more comprehensive legal framework for the presence of one country's forces in the other. It is reciprocal in nature, with the same obligations being assumed by both parties," the Australian Embassy said.

The Philippines and Australia have a standing Defense Cooperation Program whose troops have both exercises train together in preparation for development courses in both countries. Philippine military and Coast Guard personnel also take up master's studies in Australia.

A training Philippine Army officer blessed the Sorfa as the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) between the Philippines and the United States, noting that "continuous engagement" between members of the Philippine armed forces and its Australian counterpart.

Army two commander Maj. Gen. Jessie David said the Sorfa will help them learn how to deal with Australian troops who will train Filipino soldiers.

"The AFP has been sending officers to Australia to study while the Australian armed forces also sends people to train them," said David.

Filipino senators voted 17-1 to ratify the Sorfa between the Philippines and Australia on the third and final reading on July 24.

A statement from the Department of Foreign Affairs said the Sorfa paved the way for reciprocal cooperation in the "capacity-building and training" of the armed forces and international military in the conduct of humanitarian and disaster response operations, counter-terrorism, border security and maritime security.

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Pagasa eyes LPA east of Visayas

By DJ Yap

A LOW pressure area (LPA) near the eastern Visayas could turn into a storm in the next 24 to 48 hours, according to weather forecasters.

If this happens, it will be named "Gener" and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), in its bulletin yesterday, the agency warned residents of low-lying areas and mountainous slopes in the eastern coast of possible flash floods and landslides.

Flash floods have forced over a thousand people out of their homes in Compostela in northeastern Mindanao. Authorities in eastern Visayas advised fishermen not to go out to sea.

Based on satellite and surface data, the low pressure area was situated 560 km east of Borongan, Eastern Samar and gaining strength.

Another low pressure area was estimated at 370 km east-northeast of Iguig, Cagayan, but this one was not expected to turn into a storm, Pagasa said.

Pagasa warned of widespread rains over the Bicol region and eastern parts of the Visayas and Mindanao.

The rest of Luzon, including Metro Manila, will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with occasional rain showers or thunderstorms, the Pagasa forecaster added.

Heavy rains and flash floods in Compostela have already sent about 1,250 people fleeing to evacuation centers. The affected areas were in the towns of Mabinay, Cateel and Baganga. The Abuganin Bridge in Baganga was reported impassable. With a report from Gaile Bendijo, Inquirer Mindanao

Palace denies talk of Cabinet revamp

MALACAÑANG yesterday ruled out a Cabinet revamp on Aug. 1 including Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras and Secretary Julia Abad of the Presidential Management Staff.

"Ali spoke to Secretary Rene Almendras this morning and he confirmed that he would continue to be the energy secretary come Aug. 1. Besides, with reference to Secretary Julia Abad, we can confirm that she will be staying out of the PMS building which is also her constituency," said Abigail Bibe, deputy presidential spokesperson, in a Malacañang briefing.

Bibe said she had no information about former Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan replacing Almendras as reported yesterday (not by the INQUIRER).

"As the President said a few months back, no announcements of changes in the Cabinet will be made officially," Bibe said.

Rumors of a revamp effective Aug. 1 have been making for over a month now, and the names of the three officials have been floated as those involved. Both Aquino's spokespersons have consistently denied this.

Meanwhile, Mr. Aquino has reappointed Maria Cynthia Rose Bautista as commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education, effective from starting until July 21, 2016. A professor at the University of the Philippines Sociology-Anthropology Department, Ms. Rose-Bautista's current term expires December 2014.

The President also appointed Alexander Brandon as a member of the governing board of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration for three years, replacing Leonardo de Ocampo. DJ Burgonio

Take RH protest to the streets, bishops urge faithful

By Kristine L. Alave

THE POWERFUL Catholic Church is calling on its millions of followers to hold protest rights in the streets or in the privacy of their homes before Aug. 7, when the House of Representatives shall decide on the fate of the controversial reproductive health (RH) bill.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) urged the faithful through the media to hold protests and rallies to show the lawmakers their opposition to the bill, which aims to provide universal access to various fairly scientific methods and reproductive health information to Filipinos.

The bill, which has spurred a culture war between the Church and reproductive health advocates, also mandates the government to fund modern contraceptives and information through health centers.

CBCP president Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu, in an interview with the Church-run Radio Veritas, said bishops were supportive of street rallies against the RH bill in the hope that the share others would convince the lawmakers to vote against the measure, which they claim is anti-life.

Call for opposition

"People are free to manifest their civic conscience—not only those who are in favor of the RH bill but also other people who certainly want to manifest that they are opposed to it," Palma said.

Upon learning that the bill would be put to a vote on Aug. 7, Palma said they thought it was time "to remind our congressmen and senators that they have a responsibility to our people to come up with a sincere evaluation of what they believe will be for the good of the nation considering that many of us are Catholics."

Advocates of the RH bill, which include the Department of Health, say the measure would help reduce the number of mothers and infants dying in childbirth. It would also arm teenage girls from unwanted pregnancies, allow families to choose how many children to have and help them raise healthier kids.

On Thursday, Bryan Mansell, leader and Mandaluyong City Rep. Neptali Gonzales II said they expected to end the period of interpellation and debate on the bill on Tuesday.

Catholicism is the predominant religion in the Philippines, with about 83 million followers, according to government data. The Democratic Socialist Person of the Philippines said surveys showed that majority of Catholics supported the proposed law.

Intensified campaign

CBCP Permanent Council member Bishop Leonardo Medroso called on the faithful to intensify their campaign against the bill, noting that Church officials might issue an even stronger obligatory prayer for the faithful.

"We need to continue our campaign, actions and prayers to awaken the conscience of the public, especially the lawmakers who are pushing for the RH bill. The entire issue is one of the ways we see that can shake their conscience," he said.

Bishop Medroso Centre, executive secretary of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Family and Life (ECFL), said the faithful who oppose the RH bill should hold a funeral.

"To the faithful, let us launch a counter-attack by holding a session stating the funeral until Aug. 6, the day before the voting," he said. "Let us pray so that they'll ever according to their conscience and that there would be no one elected from the party leadership."

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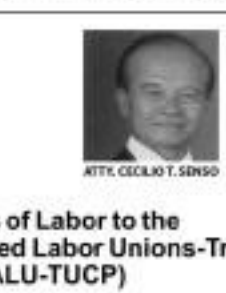

ATTY. DEMOCRITO T. MENDOZA

ATTY. CECILIO T. SENSO

Welcome Delegates, Guests, and Friends of Labor to the 14th Supreme National Congress of the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP)

JSU-PSU Mariners' Court, ALU Vimcontu Welfare Center, Pier 1, Cebu City

Theme: **Trade Unionism To Uphold Dignity of Labor And Achieve Green And Decent Work"**

"Pagsulong ng Unyonismo Upang Pagtibayin ang Dignidad ng Paggawa at Makamit ang Makakalikasan at Disenteng Trabaho"

Founded by 32 port workers in 1994, the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP) has been characterizing the Filipino working people as honest-to-goodness social partners.

As a responsible social partner, it networks and collaborates with its affiliates and partners, here and abroad, to advocate the plight of the toiling masses beginning at its membership working in IT-land and sea-based industries and various sectors across the archipelago.

The ALU-TUCP advocacies in women, children, youth, the environment, and consumer protection seeks to wield new and lasting opportunities and possibilities for the holistic development of Filipino workers and their families' well-being.

To ensure that workers' rights are promoted and their families cope with the ever increasing high cost of living, the ALU-TUCP performs the regional wage boards and campaigns for wage increases in Metro Manila and in other key regions in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao every year. It represented the plight of the workers in various policy forums to shield them from abusive, unhealthy and unsafe working policies and conditions.

To protect the more than three million workers from forthland exploitation to conscionable attention duties, the ALU-TUCP also partners with the Building and Woodworkers International (BWI) in working towards enhancement and pharmacist in the Philippines. The partnership works to eliminate asbestos-related diseases found in workplaces and to all public and private infrastructures including residential houses, schools, churches, malls, ships, and power plants.

As a pioneering labor union in the Philippines, the ALU-TUCP works to uphold and ensuring the rights, interests and welfare of regular and non-regular workers and makes sure these are promoted and protected i.e. security of tenure, freedom of association and collective bargaining or collective negotiations and providing clients in the duration and renewal of employment contracts of non-regular workers to enable them enjoy the benefits accorded to regular workers.

Today, the ALU-TUCP manages more than 500 Collective Bargaining Agreements in public and private sectors. Its national and regional offices, buildings and facilities are strategically situated in key cities around the Philippines to serve its more than 150,000 member-workers nationwide with legal aid, medical assistance and dental support.

Held every five years, today's 14th Supreme National Congress will be attended by delegates and representatives from its general membership nationwide to celebrate ALU-TUCP's contributions to the growth of the labor movement in the country in its 18 years of existence. They will also gather and elect the next set of leaders who will steer the organization into the next five years.

The guiding theme "Advancing Trade Unionism to Uphold Dignity of Labor and Achieve Green and Decent Work" captures the ALU-TUCP's proud history and reaffirms its unwavering commitment and aspirations once birth to fight for the dignity of workers made complex by the challenging, growing precarious work conditions and attractive climate patterns induced by the rapid globalization.

The ALU-TUCP will also pay tribute today in recognition of the wisdom and of the quiet courage of its founding fathers Democrito "Kito" Mendoza and Cecilio Senso who helped the organization to combat the self-worked "elite" system which was pervasive during the heightened unlawful situations in the 1980s, by making the union resilient against the political upheaval of country stirred by martial law regime in the 1970s, for detoriating the fashion of free trade unionism in view of the free-market economy as a result of people power phenomenon in 1986, and for being steadfast singular at the flexibilization of work introduced by the seamless age of globalization, and for standing by workers amid the unpredictable extreme weather effects to workers and their families caused by climate change phenomenon beginning in the 2000s. Today ceremony will highlight ALU-TUCP's transition as they turn over the reins of leadership to the new leadership.

The new leaders will lead the congress in piloting ALU-TUCP's next step forward. They will lay out strategic directions and present new approaches and initiatives in view of the federation's supreme commitment since birth: to ensure the Filipino workers achieve social justice.

P-Noy OKs National Artist Award for FPJ

PRESIDENT Aquino has confirmed a 2006 proclamation declaring the late movie actor King Fernando Poe Jr. a National Artist, in a done initiative to his family to accept the award.

"Pursuant to the authority vested to me by law, I, Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Philippines, do hereby confirm the declaration of Ronald Allan K. Poe, aka Fernando Poe Jr., as National Artist (posthumous) as conferred in Proclamation No. 1969 dated May 23, 2006," Mr. Aquino said in Proclamation No. 435 dated July 26.

Then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo posthumously conferred the National Artist Award on Poe in May 2006, but his family refused to accept the honor in protest of Poe's loss to Arroyo in the hotly-contested May 2004 presidential election.

She suffered a massive stroke and died in December 2004. Poe's widow, actress Susan Roces, accused Arroyo of stealing the win.

"It's a confirmation because the National Artist Award had been previously conferred on (the late FPJ)" said deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte.

After his Aquino took office in June 2010, Noon and her daughter, Mary Grace Poe Llamanzares, now chief of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, expressed the hope that they could finally receive the award. — TJ Burgonio

JBC postpones vote after Senate, House pull out reps

By Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

THE JUDICIAL and Bar Council (JBC) postponed voting for the final three nominees to the position of Chief Justice from Monday to Thursday next week, after leaders of both chambers of Congress agreed to pull out their respective representatives from the JBC following the Supreme Court decision limiting Congress' representation to only one member.

Neither Sen. Francis Escudero nor Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. will represent Congress in the JBC.

"With due respect to the Supreme Court, Congress is composed of two houses," Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said in an interview over radio station dzBB. "The Senate and it represents the position of the House; neither can the House represent the position of the Senate," he added.

Enrile, who opposed plurality for his handling of the impeachment trial, also indicated that a Chief Justice appointed by the President based on the list provided by the JBC might encounter questions later on because of the questionable status of the council membership.

Tupas said it would be "more prudent" for the JBC to delay its scheduled vote at 11 a.m. on Monday until the issue of Congress representation to the council has been resolved. The Senate and the House have filed a joint motion asking the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision allowing only one member to represent both chambers in the JBC.

JBC predicament

In a text message to the Inquirer, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte said that both lawmakers and Tupas were instructed not to participate in the JBC "pending further consultation with our respective members."

"We can't decide by ourselves ... We will wait until it is clearly and correctly decided," Enrile said, following a meeting yesterday in Makati with Belmonte, Tupas, Escudero and House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II to discuss the JBC predicament.

Belmonte said the same group would meet again on Monday "at the earliest" to discuss the next course of action.

Escudero indicated that he would follow the decision reached by the congressional leaders.

Postponement

In a text message last night, Supreme Court spokesperson, lawyer Sibonely Eusebio, stated that the JBC "final deliberations" were rescheduled from Monday to Thursday next week.

She said the postponement would give the Supreme Court, which oversees its en banc session every Tuesday, a chance to decide on the motion for reconsideration filed by Congress on the high tribunal's ruling that only one member from Congress should participate in the JBC deliberations. The JBC also needs more time to study and evaluate the candidates, she added.

Earlier, JBC member Jose Mejia said the council was ready to proceed with the voting on Monday, adding that the absence of just one member would not affect the JBC's quorum. Except for saying that the council was caught "flat-footed" by it, Mejia declined to comment further on the decision of Congress to withdraw both lawmakers and Tupas from the JBC.

According to Tupas, yesterday's meeting also touched on the issue of who should preside over the JBC in the absence of the Chief Justice.

"Initiatibo ito (This is somewhat), Tupas said, adding that the Chief Justice was supposed to preside over the JBC, except that in this case, the position is vacant. The next logical choice, he added, was acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio but being himself a nominee to the post, he had inhibited himself.

'Flawed' composition

Enrile agreed, and described the composition of the JBC as "flawed," adding that President Aquino "[would] have to appoint a Chief Justice as a matter of necessity."

"He's the appointing power, Nobody else," he added.

The Senate President pointed out that the Constitution provided that the JBC may only be presided by the Chief Justice as its ex officio chair and that an acting Chief Justice can assume the latter's duties but cannot preside over the JBC proceedings.

Enrile said the doctrine "verite lex legis non est recedendum" (which means "from the words of a statute there should be no departure") quoted by the Supreme Court in its decision as the basis of its ruling.

Congress representation in the JBC is only one representative, should also be applied to the Supreme Court and even to the executive branch's representative in the council.

"Why apply it only to Congress when the Constitution says the Chief Justice is the ex officio chair of the JBC?" Enrile asked.

He added: "The secretary of justice is also an ex officio member of the JBC, according to constitutional law. Why is she being represented by someone else, which is not authorized under the Constitution?"

Like Carpio, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima had inhibited herself from the JBC proceedings as she was among those being considered for the post.

Appointed as officio chair of the JBC was Associate Justice Bienvenido Reyes, while Undersecretary Michael Wiarda from Malacañang's office on special concerns had taken over De Lima's seat at the JBC.

Enrile said that the President's "appointment of a Chief Justice without any JBC action or recommendation is defensible, given the situation we are in."

'Erroneous, absurd'

Tupas described the high court's decision as "erroneous" and "absurd" and warned of certain "repercussions" if the JBC proceeds with voting without congressional representation.

"It would be more prudent for them to really wait until this issue is resolved," Tupas said. "Otherwise, if we go, we go with the representation of Congress? We're bicameral in nature."

Among all JBC members, only Senate and House representatives were "directly elected by the people," he added.

The JBC yesterday finished its interviews of applicants for the post of Chief Justice after CJ Renato Corona's impeachment last month rendered the post vacant.

At the conclusion of the interviews, Peralta thanked the applicants for being frank and candid, and the media for covering the event.

"You are the instruments in making known to the [people] what we can be answer questions to the process," the JBC chair said.

Peralta also thanked those who showed interest in the JBC interviews by sending questions via Twitter, Facebook and e-mail. With a report from Jerome Aning

'No need to heal, nothing to fix in SC; we don't have fights'

From page A1

Serreno, 52, twice drew applause from the gallery during the fourth and last day of the televised interviews of nominees yesterday, when she blasted an outsider leading the high court as a civilian leading an army to war.

"It is true that being an insider of the [Supreme Court] disfavors me in the eyes of many parents. It would be shocking for an outsider. That experience is a too-specialized," said Serreno.

Silver for former Chief Justice was transported and subjected as a front-runner to total, she said, "not even about my work 'without shipping a hour,' she said.

"We have good laughs during lunch. We don't have fights. Our justices have the quality that after heated arguments, we laugh at our own jokes even when they're corny," she said.

"The outside world has not imagined that after heated arguments or after tossing among by wounded tissues, we are to produce laughing. There is nothing to fix," she added.

The dissenting justice

Serreno's dissenting opinion on the Supreme Court order to install her November allowing former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to leave medical treatment abroad was extensively quoted by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima in her statement at Corona's impeachment trial.

De Lima, who defied the Supreme Court order and barred Arroyo from leaving, quoted Serreno as claiming that Arroyo had not complied with one of the order's conditions, hence the high court's order had not taken effect.

Right after Corona was convicted, acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio immediately convened the court to assure the public that the tribunal was not issued to function, Serreno said.

"There were no recriminations. No one said, 'Ha ha pwedeneme mo! Happened because of your dissent.' We were laughing and professional about it. We were here to ensure that the court is functioning without skipping a beat," she said.

Serreno said that even if she frequently dissented from majority decisions, it did not mean that she would not be able to work with the court if she is appointed Chief Justice.

If chosen, she said her "bad" probity will be marked by a willingness to create a consensus of judges to life of republic and not divisive.

"I am not a crusader in the sense that I believe that vision is never compromised at whatever cost. I am willing to bear whatever cost and make sacrifices to make that vision come alive," she said.

Invoking God several times, Serreno said that she was already living like a "semi-recluse" to avoid being identified with groups who might have cases pending in court.

'We have to move on'

Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr. said there was no need for Mr. Aquino to appoint a "reconciler" Chief Justice to heal the divisions in the high court brought on by Corona's impeachment, as suggested by lawyer Rene Saguisag, a lawmaker-senator.

"I don't know why they say there has to be a cooling period. When I [retire] was released, I left without any bitterness, but that's understandable. The chief was taken out. But to us, we have a duty to perform under the Constitution and there are cases pending," Velasco told the JBC panel.

"To me, it's life business as usual after that. We have to begin what happened, move on and do our job. People expect her as to decide cases expeditiously," he said.

"To us, we have to do the job and follow the policy-making because we are duty-bound to do that. We really have to move on from what happened," said Velasco, who seconded some of the critics in support of Carpio.

Even though he believes that Corona, being the most senior justice in the high court, should be named Chief Justice, Velasco said he still accepted his nomination because of the "wonderful experience" that he could bring to the post.

"I have a wealth of experience behind me with regard to the problems of the courts. Probably, I can distinguish myself as the only one who served as court administrator for six years, a big plus factor for me," said Velasco, the second most senior justice in the tribunal.

"I'm aware of all the problems encountered by the courts on the ground. Right away, I can implement solutions to these problems," he added.

Velasco thanked Mr. Aquino for increasing the budget of the judiciary but noted that there was a need to build more courtrooms. He said that as court administrator, he went around the country and was shocked at the dilapidated state of some courtrooms.

"We must get the full support of Congress to provide the judiciary with adequate funds to come out with well-equipped courtrooms," he added.

Velasco also said that he would track down all no corruption in the courts if appointed.

"We have to admit there are some [corrupt judges]. We have sanctioned a few and we have dismissed them," he said.

In answer to foreign investors, Velasco said he could assure them that court decisions regarding economic issues would be "predictable, uniform and consistent."

Politics a qualification

He does not consider being a politician a hindrance to becoming a successful Chief Justice, said former Sen. Juan Ponce Ronaldo Zamora.

"I don't think politics is that far from the judiciary in the sense that lawyers usually participate in public life. I think you'll make an easy transition if you don't carry too much baggage. Do I have baggage? Yes, of course, everybody does. But do I have enough so that I should be disqualified, I don't think so. But it's up to you to decide," he told the panel.

Zamora recalled that former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan, who was an assemblyman for Cebu before being appointed to the high court, was one of the country's most successful Chief Justices.

"[Being a politician] is a good situation, it gives you a better sense of how to deal with people, how to answer questions and how to provide solutions for very large problems," he said.

Burning love for country

Zamora, who topped the 1969 bar examinations and was executive secretary to the late Antonio Barredo, retired at the age 27, offered his "wide range" of experience in government service, a "little" intelligence and expertise in law practice, and more than anything else, a "burning love" for the country and democracy.

He pointed out that not being an ally of President Aquino, he could be counted on to be independent and not beholden to political influence.

"I do not care anybody any political obligation or personal obligation. I would simply own myself and the rest ultimately that I will try to serve the change to do the right thing," he said.

He said his judicial philosophy was equality of all before the law and, quoting the late President Ramon Magsaysay, that "those who have less in life should have more in law."

He said he was for using Filipino as the language to be used in court proceedings to make the law more accessible to ordinary people, who may not be as adept with English.

Zamora, who said he regarded Marcos as a mentor, said he wanted all the cases related to the Marcos regime resolved.

The Marcos dictatorship lasted 20 for 20 years. But one of its wants to be subjected for 30 years of having to go to court," he said.

Zamora paused for a long time before announcing when he was asked how he was dealing after the death of his daughter, Consuelo, who succumbed to leukemia at the age of 36 four years ago.

He said coping was "not easy." "We take one step at a time, breathe in and out, pray to for it in the next day, next week, next month, and that is what I have done," he said.

Zamora said he had set up a foundation to help people who suffer from the illness that took his daughter.

'Unusual times'

President Aquino would be "taking a leap of faith" in appointing her as the "crudest possible" of Chief Justice, said former Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Chair Feliciano Herbosa, the first of the applicants to be interviewed yesterday.

He "unusual times call for unusual solutions," submit in answer to a question on the situation even though she is an outsider and has no experience in the judiciary she said.

"I feel I have all the qualifications and I believe that when it comes down to the bottom line, whether an insider or outsider, it does not really matter. It's more whether the person is equipped with the skills to be able to unite or lead the group to overcome the present crisis and go for a common goal," she said.

She said a "Herbosa Court" would be accessible to all, where there are no delays and where cases would be decided on the merits, and one which would give everyone fair and equal treatment.

Herbosa said her judicial philosophy was anchored adherence to the Constitution, keeping in mind the intent of its framers, and avoiding "undue interference" in the functions of other branches of government, except in cases of grave abuse.

She said she was inclined to award judicial restraint rather than judicial activism as she thinks the Constitution is "adequately worded."

She also said a Chief Justice should be able to lead or motivate everyone in the judiciary through "transformational leadership."

Herbosa, who was appointed IBP chair in April last year, served as a litigation lawyer for 20 years with the Sycip Salazar Concepcion Feliciano and Cruz law office, where she was the first female consulting partner.

Rival descendant

Two personal details cut limited among Herbosa's interview: She is a descendant of the national hero Jose Rizal and remains single at 52.

A great granddaughter of Rizal's sister, Lucia, Herbosa was asked what qualities of the national hero she wanted to possess if she is appointed Chief Justice, she replied by relating what her grandfather, who was one of Rizal's students during his exile in Dapitan, told her.

"You are not entitled to any advantage in life. You have to work for everything you want, but in the process, you are not supposed to step on the toes of other people and should not be unfair and unjust," she said.

Herbosa also said that she was "very daring" was willing to do manual work and recognized the value of punch down opponent.

She said that as a single, female Chief Justice, she would have more time to prepare for decisions, read and do other jobs.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday—July 28, 2012
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jer 7:1-11

Three weeks were spoken by Yahweh, to Jeremiah, "Stand at the gate of Yahweh's house and proclaim this in a loud voice. Listen to what Yahweh says, all Judah, all who enter these gates to worship Yahweh. Yahweh the God of Israel says this.

Amend your ways and your deeds and I will stay with you in this place. Rely not on empty words such as: Look, the Temple of Yahweh! The Temple of Yahweh! This is the Temple of Yahweh!

It is far better for you to amend your ways and act justly with all. Do not abuse the stranger, orphan or widow or shed innocent blood in this place or follow false gods to your own ruin. Then I will live with you in this place, in the land I gave to your ancestors in times and for long.

Here you are relying on empty words that are useless. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, perjure yourselves, burn incense to Baal and follow false gods who are not yours. Then, after doing all these horrible things, you come and stand before me in this Temple that bears my name and say, 'Here we are safe!'

Is this house on which mine my name is the of thieves? I have seen this myself ... it is Yahweh who speaks.

Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58

Jesus told his disciples another parable, "The Kingdom of heaven can be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and left.

When the plants sprouted and produced grain, the weeds also appeared. Then the servants of the owner came to him and said, 'Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?'

"He answered them, 'This is the work of an enemy.' They asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?' He said them, 'No, when you pull up the weeds, you might uproot the wheat with them. Let them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will say to the workers: Pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them; then gather the wheat into my barn.'

Reflection:

Much of our preaching and practice today is judgmental. It is well to remember that the word means 'flattening out.' It comes from the Latin plumus, for the fill itself is at least three dimensional! Explanation is always a second hand thing. It reduces the original to some distant copy. Quite often, it can encourage us more to make the Bible more comprehensible, we are actually making it less believable and with the original impact of God's will. We use the language of politics, or economics, or insurance policies ... or even mathematics. We need to recover the language of religious experience. Any time we can connect God's word to current religious experience we're

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DENR asks military to lead fight vs illegal loggers

By DJ Yap

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Ramon Paje wants to militarize the campaign against illegal loggers in the countryside, noting their increasing danger to forest rangers, some 20 of whom have been killed in the line of duty since 2010.

"We are requesting that illegal logging operations in the Bicol and Caraga regions be conducted militarily operations because we believe it's not just an issue of illegal logging," Paje told a briefing on Thursday.

He said he asked Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin during President Aquino's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 23 to provide military support to deputized forest enforcers, whose job includes monitoring illegal logging activities.

"During the last Sona, we talked to Secretary Gazmin and he is very willing to support us," Paje said.

The official noted that 20 employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), including contractual workers and civilian volunteers, had been killed since 2010.

Recently, he said, he received a report that three DENR personnel were abducted in Agusan del Sur but were released "after hours of negotiation."

"We're recommending that it should be a military operation rather than just regular army. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is already a member of the antiillegal logging task force, but we're the lead agency. We want them to take the lead," Paje said.

Paje said the DENR had been making huge strides in reducing the number of illegal logging "hot spots" in the country, from a high of 397 sites to only 28, now mostly concentrated in the Caraga and Davao regions.

But much more needs to be done, he said.

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May 1 to July 31, 2012

US raps Sino garrison plan

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dispute with China.

The Associated Press reported yesterday that prominent US senators have declared the Chinese move as provocative and a possible violation of international law.

Code of conduct

US State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland told reporters on Thursday the United States was pressing all parties to work on a code of conduct for the West Philippine Sea, according to the AP report from Washington.

Asked about China's plans, Nuland said the United States was concerned by "unilateral moves."

She said: "There's a concern here that they are beginning to take actions where we want to see all of these issues resolved or the status."

China has no problem with that as long as the talks are bilateral. It has refused to discuss its territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea with five other Asian countries on international forums, and its lobbying against such a push by the multilateral Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Differences in Asean

The Asean foreign ministers' meeting in Phnom Penh earlier this month failed to issue a customary joint communique because host Cambodia, an ally of China, blocked efforts by the Philippines and Vietnam to mention the West Philippine Sea dispute in the postconference statement. It was the first time Asean failed to issue a joint statement in its 45-year history.

Hardly diplomacy by Embassy, a Foreign Ministry blog by Ambassador Raul Hernandez, produced a leaked statement, issued by the Indonesian chairmanship, after the Bali meet, that called in general terms for implementation of "non-provoked unilateral actions, disputes, or use of force, avoiding the conflicts in accordance with international laws," and an early signing of a legally binding code of conduct aimed at thwarting any more armed conflict.

The Philippines was strong with Washington in help build allies within the bloc, but said it would insist that the territorial disputes be mentioned in future Asean joint statements.

On Tuesday, the DFA summoned China's ambassador to the Philippines Ma Keqing and handed her a diplomatic note protesting China's plans to establish a military garrison on Woody Island and the arrival of the Chinese fishing fleet in the Spratlys.

China claims all of the West Philippine Sea and insists that anything it does is legal because it has sovereignty over the waters.

Garrison officials warned

In another report yesterday, the AP quoting Chinese state media said Beijing had sent a message of concern over the West Philippine Sea by warning five senior military officials in charge of operations in newly established on Woody Island just days ago.

The China Daily newspaper yesterday quoted Defense Ministry spokesperson Geng Yansh as saying the garrison will be responsible for defense for Sansha City, the AP said.

The naming of Senior Col. Gu Xiong as commander and Senior Col. Liao Chuyi as the political commissar came after Sansha was declared a city Monday with a flag-raising ceremony shown live on state television. The AP said it was unclear if combat forces would be stationed there.

The Philippines has no territorial claims in the Paracels, but the DFA says China's plan to administer the island group and the Spratlys runs counter to international law.

Nuland said China's actions in the Paracels violated international law.

Tuesday's protest included strong objection to the arrival of 30 Chinese fishing vessels in the Spratlys. The fleet is reportedly escorted by two People's Liberation Army vessels (frigate).

Twenty of the fishing vessels had moved to within 9 kilometers of Philippine occupied Pag-asa Island, one of seven islands in Kalayaan municipality in Palawan province, by Tuesday, but despite confrontation by the municipality's West Command (Wescom) and by the Philippine Navy, the DFA remained unprepared to make a statement yesterday.

No UN intervention yet

DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said the department still had not received an official report on the presence of Chinese fishing vessels near Pag-asa Island.

Hernandez said, however, that the DFA had received a report from the Navy that three Chinese vessels were spotted on Wednesday at Panata Shoal (Scarborough Shoal), a rich and coral formation within the Philippines exclusive economic zone that China claims is part of its territory.

Hernandez said asking the United Nations for a peacekeeping force, as suggested by Bataan, was not an option at the Philippines at this time.

"Maybe at this point in time, what we should be doing is concentrate on the three tracks that we have been undertaking," Hernandez told reporters, referring to the diplomatic, political and legal strategy that the DFA had chosen to find a solution to the country's territorial dispute with China.

Hernandez said the situation had not escalated the extent that required taking the UN intervention.

Palace says no

In Malacañang, deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said Bataan's request for intervention remained on the determination of tensions between the Philippines and China into conflict, stating what the government was trying to prevent.

She said the government was focused on a diplomatic solution and legal search for a resolution of the territorial dispute with China.

Valte said the Navy was still confirming the presence of Chinese fishing vessels near Pag-asa. She said it was up to the DFA and the Navy what action to take.

The Navy confirmed the approach of the Chinese fishing vessels on Thursday. Lieutenant Commander Felix Ibe Jr. Rey Bernardino Tanzo Jr., Ray Evangelista, Arnold Gonzalo, Cleto Algeyan, Ernesto John Martinez, Joe Moreno Talamante, Hoah Ocampo, Arnie Martinez and Erwin Alonzo and Qtr. Jerry Acejadas.

The clashes in Tumbalong and Colmegbong came a month after Bataan's group banned the rubber plantations workers two weeks ago. The bandits killed six rubber tappers in the attack.

Tugong said on Wednesday morning that armed men fired at a Forward Security Guards Tumbalong Agusan Rubber Plantations Limited Development Cooperative Inc. (Tarbilco) at Tumbalong village.

"During the first hour of contact, [the] security guards were pinned down," Tugong said by phone.

Bandit reinforcement

He said the fighting worsened when at least one armed men arrived to reinforce the bandit group, initially numbering around 20.

"We matched their strength and augmented our troops and it turned into a running gun battle," Tugong said.

Colmegbong and government troops were pursuing the six-hour bandits in the hinterlands of Sumalay.

"Our concentration now is to secure the area and to protect our people from their daily activities," Colmegbong said.

Reinforcement troops and mobile forces have been deployed to help secure the harvest of areas of farming where the bandits have retreated, he said.

Former workers of the Tarbilco, including former employees of Rebel Workers Association-Philippines and the rank-and-file union of Tarbilco, said they were not aware of the attack.

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Pag-asa isle municipal workers want to go out to stop Chinese

EMPLOYEES of the municipal government on Pag-asa report- ed yesterday that Chinese fishermen continued collecting corals from the edge of Jakarta on the fringe of reefs 3 kilometers from Pag-asa.

"We counted at least five large fishing boats from the eastern side of the island," said Bayan Cajimbo, a municipal employee, told the Inquirer by text message. "At least one more new one just arrived."

Kalayaan Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon said the municipal staff on the island had wanted to go out to stop the Chinese but he had persuaded them not to do anything, as the matter was for the DFA to deal with.

Coral destruction

Bito-onon said he also ordered the fishermen not patrol the waters according to the Chinese fishermen.

"We will just let the BFA handle this matter," he said.

A marine conservation expert said yesterday that coral mining by the Chinese off Pag-asa would have a serious impact on important marine ecosystems around the Coral Triangle.

Romeo Trono, former head of Conservation International Philippines and the earth conservation program of the government, urged countries bound by the international agreements to protect the Coral Triangle to help and Chinese to stop its fishermen from mining corals in the West Philippine Sea.

Alyn Rex Bolotas, a retired Navy officers said the government should tell the United Nations not for a peacekeeping force but for a maritime patrol to protect the Philippine environment from Chinese destruction.

"The corals have been there for years, and now they're destroying them to as base or such," Bolotas said.

"They should be patrols in the whole area there, which should be declared a sanctuary and empowered accordingly," he said. JJ Burgonio in Manila and Reuterspeter dasla, Inquirer Southern Luzon

A PROTESTER burns a Chinese flag during a protest rally in front of the Department of Foreign Affairs building in Pasay City on Friday. Bataan- and military officials have expressed concern over China's deployment of its military detachment in the South China Sea. AFP/JOEY GUTIERREZ

Soldiers 'refused to leave each other'

From page A1

Basilan. The Abu Sayyaf has 21 men in that clash.

Colmegbong said nine bandits were killed and more than a dozen others were injured in the clashes on Thursday.

Col. Rustan Tugong, Task Force Basilan commander, said villagers provided the information about the Abu Sayyaf casualties.

"We got all the information from village and cooperative workers," Tugong said.

Colmegbong said confirmed soldiers counting after the Abu Sayyaf gunmen who were harassing rubber plantation workers in two villages in Sumalay town since June wanted to fall back after realizing they were outnumbered by so many enemies.

"Those who want to come a point that you doesn't withdraw but won't realize that it's not anymore feasible because of all the maneuvering that is happening," he said.

Fought together

But most of the soldiers involved in Ogbac Base Dragon 2, in Tumbalong and Colmegbong village, Colmegbong said, withdrawing meant about half of their companions would be left behind.

"So they stuck together, engaged the enemy until the firing ceased," Colmegbong said.

The Army said the slain soldiers were Private First Class Reynaldo Tamayo Jr., Ray Evangelista, Arnold Gonzalo, Cleto Algeyan, Ernesto John Martinez, Joe Moreno Talamante, Hoah Ocampo, Arnie Martinez and Erwin Alonzo and Qtr. Jerry Acejadas.

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Booming business

"The rubber business is booming in this province and it's considered valuable gold in several areas, especially the Abu Sayyaf Group and other bandits who extensively are taking advantage not just by stealing the rubber sap," Tugong said.

Tugong said the center of attacks on Tarbilco's rubber area was not indicated.

Cooperatives of land-reformed rubber plantations in the towns of Isabela, Sumalay, Lugkayan Pukan and Tipo Tipo reported continuing harassment by armed groups, he said.

Rubber tappers in the old logs of Lakeng Cuesa in Malusay town said in Tumbalong were the latest victims of harassment, according to Tarbilco manager Nelia Estrella.

"Armed men are making it difficult for our workers to go to the field...either our workers are intimidated or killed because we refused to give in to their extortion demands," he said.

Bandit strategy

Tugong said the armed groups would now live in a certain area while the rest would be trapped rubber sap.

Around 700 of the Department of Trade and Industry in Basilan said a kilogram of rubber sap sold for P110.

There are some 21,700 hectares of land planted to rubber in the island province of Basilan.

Colmegbong said the number of slain Muslim rural bandits is unusual since as of yesterday.

He identified eight of the slain bandits as Ustadz Hassan Amarsi, Asiandi Amarsi (son of Hassan), Ibrahim Amarsi, Adnan Alimun, Kaabal Bantal, Hadjata Mawin, Mister Tugi Sayyaf Group said other bandits remained unidentified, he said.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Armed Forces Chief General Jessie Dellosa yesterday visited the wounded soldiers at the military hospital here.

Both officials declared to raise reinforcements.

Colmegbong said Gazmin has also to visit ground troops in Basilan.

"He always makes a point to visit there and the soldiers, too, especially the Special Operations Command," he said.

Tugong said six of the 17 wounded soldiers remained in critical condition yesterday.

Aid for families

The bodies of the slain Rangers will soon be sent to their families, Colmegbong said.

Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, Army chief, yesterday directed the release of P97.2 million in cash assistance to the families of the slain Rangers.

Brig. Harold Cabreros, Army spokesperson, said each family will receive an amount of P600,000 depending on the slain soldier's rank and length of service. With a report from Marlon Ramos

DEFENSE Secretary Voltaire Gazmin visits the wounded soldiers at a military hospital in Zamboanga City on Friday.

HEALTH ALERT:
How Clean Is The Indoor Air We Breathe?

I dawn living, particularly in highly congested areas like Metro Manila, is getting more and more stressful every day. Outdoors, we have to contend with traffic, air and noise pollution, and mingling with countless strangers in crowded markets, shopping centers, malls, offices, schools, buses and trains.

And, with today's news constantly bombarded by headlines of deadly and deadly diseases, the health risks are obviously high. It is no surprise then that more people avoid going out unless absolutely necessary.

performing to stay indoors instead.

The question is, how safe is the air we breathe indoors?

Advocates in building healthy workplaces and office buildings are right: in fact we should be more concerned about the air we breathe indoors.

Me into and strong wind. They are also meant to reduce power consumption related to air conditioning.

But the air-tight buildings also trap air pollutants inside, and no fresh air can come in. Indoor air is simply re-circulated, together with the pollutants.

While indoor air may look or smell clean, there are plenty of factors that affect indoor air quality like poor ventilation, inside combustion (gas, poor humidity control, and contamination from building materials, among others.

Some of the causes of indoor air pollution are ordinary things that we never suspect could be harmful. Clothing materials, for instance, may cause problems, while those outdoors usually, pants and allergens that attach themselves to the fibers. Once indoors, clothing release these allergens, pests and odors into the air.

Our furniture, carpets, drapes and upholstery materials likewise emit chemical fumes, moisture pores and odors that we cannot easily detect. The same is true with the construction materials like paint, plywood and particle boards that are used for cabinets and panelling.

The list of indoor pollutants is almost endless. Excessive pollen, ammonia and odors releasing paint from our bodies and chemical fumes, moisture pores and odors that we cannot easily detect. The same is true with the construction materials like paint, plywood and particle boards that are used for cabinets and panelling.

The list of indoor pollutants is almost endless. Excessive pollen, ammonia and odors releasing paint

include acute discomfort, headache, eye, nose, or throat irritation, dry cough, dry or itchy skin, dizziness and nausea.

In addition, symptoms can include poor concentration, fatigue, chest tightness, fever, chills, and muscle aches. How

What to do, then?

Shower and relieve with an natural air ventilation and an air therapy system that can kill germs, eliminate chemical contaminants, and even cure smoke, dust, mite, bad odor, bacteria, and mold spores.

The good news is, such technology is now in the Philippines.

A company called SOL Global Corporation recently introduced in the local market a patented technology that effectively addresses the problem of poor indoor air quality by treating the air through a three-step process of purification, sterilization and ventilation.

Called the ASPIRO Aviros Pure Life Module, the patented product is a complete system for mechanical ventilation, air conditioning, air treatment and lighting, necessary to make the indoor air quality requirements of today's office environment. It reduces toxicity in the indoor air, replenishes oxygen and dilutes carbon dioxide, among others.

The internal components of the ASPIRO™ Aviros Pure Life Module include an electro-catalytic and photo-catalytic deodorizer filter module, a UVC germicidal system and an electrophoretic and filter

eradicates up to 90% of smoke, dust, mite, odor, bacteria, and mold spores in residential homes.

The technology does not require elaborate ductwork or expensive installations, and can even remove soot or dirt particulates, methane, carbon dioxide from indoor air. It operates in near energy-saving mode so that it is required only several times to exhaust internal exhausts.

More importantly, the ASPIRO Aviros has therapeutic properties and restores our balanced inside homes and offices, which have been drastically proven in clinical tests.

The technology is certified safe by health authorities in the United Kingdom and Singapore, among other countries.

Now, that is certainly good news worth sharing.

ANCHOR LAND FIRST TO USE ASPIRO AIR THERAPY SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES

In accordance with the company's vision of 100% commitment to provide the best innovations and highest quality service to customers, Anchor Land Holdings, Inc. is proud to be the first Philippine developer to carry the ASPIRO air therapy products in its development.

Anchor Land President Elizabeth Ventura said that they will incorporate the ASPIRO air therapy system as part of the company's standard offerings in all their new residential projects, including the Solemare Parkwinds complex at the ASEANA Business Park in Paranaque and the 10-storey Armond Bonifacio along Roxas Boulevard.

"We are proud to announce to our homebuyers clients that we continuously upgrade our offerings without any added cost to their part. With the ASPIRO air therapy system plus our other luxury features, we are confident that SoleMare Parkwinds will continue to be one of our most sought-after residential developments," Ms. Ventura said.

SAFE AT SOLEMARE
Popular actress Angel Locsin (left) and Anchor Land Holdings, Inc. Chairman Antonio Bonifacio, where she has a unit in Anchor Land's SoleMare Parkwinds, pose for photographers during the launching of the ASPIRO air therapy system in the condominium project. SoleMare Parkwinds is the first project of Anchor Land to use the ASPIRO air therapy system.

The ASPIRO air therapy system effectively removes sources of indoor air pollution, including those from the atmosphere and reduces moisture by up to 90 percent. It releases more oxygen by diluting carbon dioxide to lessen toxicity in the indoor air, ensuring a healthier environment.

Other distinct features of the product include necessary control units with UV process through a bioprocessing system. It does not harm the natural layer and is certified safe by health authorities in many countries, including the United Kingdom and Singapore.

The Solemare Parkwinds is a mixed-use development at the Bay City self-sustained Manila Bay. SoleMare is strategically situated between the Mall of Asia and the fast-rising Bagumbayan International City. It is located along Roxas Avenue just a few steps from Sofitel Philippine Plaza and the new Consular Affairs Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The first phase of SoleMare Parkwinds consisting of two 19-storey residential towers has been completed and turned over to buyers, while the second phase, also made up of two 19-storey residential towers, has been topped off this week and will be turned over to customers before the end of the year.

Anchor Land will soon launch in the country what is hyped as the Manhattan Parkwinds, which boasts the excellent health benefits of the ASPIRO indoor air therapy system. the Monarch Park unites with office hygge with glass tongue sanctuaries and a wide array of health and recreational facilities.

Ms. Ventura said SoleMare Parkwinds will be among the first residential development in the Philippines to use the state-of-the-art ASPIRO indoor air therapy system which works like a combination of an exhaust fan, a module light unit or air purifier.

The system eradicates up to 90 percent of smoke, dust, mite, bad odor, bacteria and mold spores, making the air in the residential unit smell like good air the time.

More importantly, Ms. Ventura said that with the ASPIRO technology, the kitchen, bathrooms and the whole condominium unit will have healthy air because it removes pollutants and makes the air inside the unit cleaner and therapeutic.

The equipment also doubles as a stylish lighting fixture for the bathroom.

Other Anchor Land projects that will incorporate the ASPIRO air therapy system are its Cucumware Prelocates in San Juan City and the Oxford Parkwinds, a 39-storey learning-inspired development in the heart of Cubao.

For more information about SoleMare Parkwinds and other Anchor Land developments, please call 8917 8000.

IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE ACTION
A final photo of SoleMare Parkwinds, which are now almost fully occupied. The SoleMare Parkwinds development at the ASEANA Business Park in Paranaque City is strategically located between the Mall of Asia and the emerging Bayan Entertainment City.

AVPIRO for
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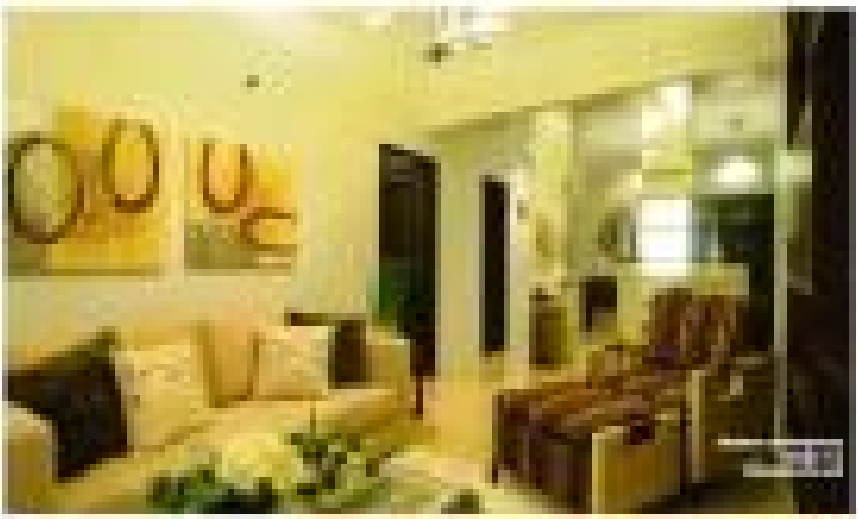
First in the industry:
Free interior design services for RFOs



"We base our designs on their personality, lifestyle, color and mood preferences"

Greenhills Heights ready for turnover soon

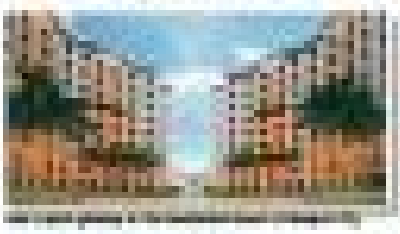
EL JARDIN DEL PRESIDENTE 3

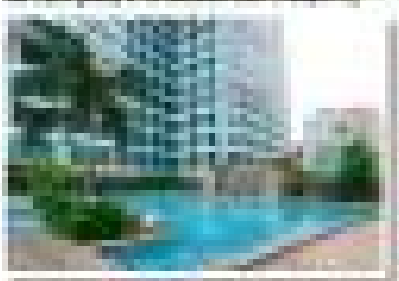
The Comfort of Liv
in the City of Sta

Megaworld offers best reasons to invest in RFOs

10 + 1 Reasons Why You Should Invest in RFOs

Live the prime life in Megaworld's townships





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OPINION

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Setbacks for prosecution

EDITORIAL

PAMPANGA REP Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo scored a major legal victory when she was allowed to post bail by the Pasay City Regional Trial Court for the vote-rigging case filed against her in connection with the 2007 senatorial elections. Pasay City Judge Jesus Mupas allowed the temporary release of the former President on bail of P1 million, saying that while electoral sabotage was a cumulable offense, the evidence presented against her was weak; Mupas said the testimony of former Maguindanao provincial administrator Norie Unas that he had overheard Arroyo ordering the then Maguindanao governor, Andal Ampatuan Sr., to produce a 12-0 vote in the province in favor of her administration's senatorial candidates was "tainted with doubt." Mupas' court also said that while the Commission on Elections and Department of Justice could file a motion for reconsideration, this would not stop the grant of bail. Arroyo's camp lost no time in producing the bail money. She thereafter left the presidential suite at Veterans Memorial Medical Center, where she had been detained since November, and proceeded to her home in La Vista, Quezon City, with bag and baggage, as though certain of a long reprieve.

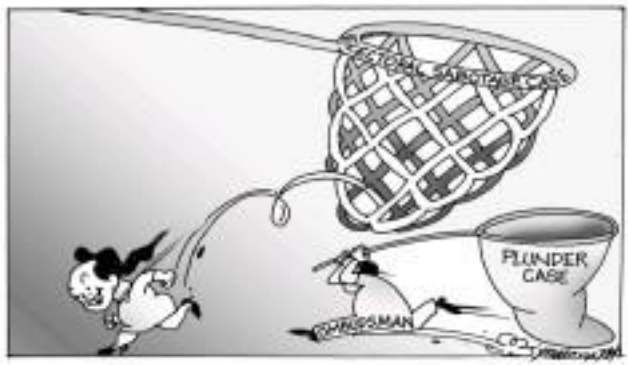
There had been signs that the prosecution was having trouble with the election sabotage case, especially after Unas, whom the prosecution had touted as its star witness, suddenly disappeared, so that Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes and the DOJ had to seek the trial's postponements. When he resurfaced, Unas did not bargain on the edited stand. It was only a matter of time for the defense to draw his testimony and realize how silent this he had on personal knowledge of the poll fraud in Maguindanao.

While expressing surprise that the Pasay City court would grant Arroyo's bail request, Sen. Francis Escudero said he was actually more surprised that only one electoral sabotage case had been formally lodged against the former President. But judging by the prosecution's poor performance in advancing the case at hand and fighting Arroyo's bail request, the filing of more electoral charges against her would hardly inspire public confidence. The prosecution should do its job properly and make the persons cases against Arroyo stick. It should do this if only because it was the filing of this charge last year that legally stopped her from leaving the country—in quite dramatic circumstances, borne by an ambulance and rolled into the airport in a wheelchair—purportedly to seek treatment abroad for her medical condition.

Is Arroyo again at risk of seeking "alternative treatment" other than in Tagaytay City? She and her camp fully know that she has been put on the hold-departure list as a result of the plunder charge filed against her at the Sandiganbayan last July 16 by the Office of the Ombudsman. This case is in connection with the alleged use of P366 million by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds for "Fertilizer" expenses in the last two and a half years of her term.

But if Unas' poor testimony is any indication, then the prosecution in the current and planned cases against Arroyo may be headed for more trouble. Unas' disappearance and sudden reluctance to testify suggested not only hindrance/arrest in a prosecution witness but also that the former provincial administrator of Maguindanao had doubts about the efficiency of the government's witness protection program. Indeed, the murderers of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances remains high. In fact, in the multiple massacre case involving the 2009 Maguindanao massacre, an alarming number of witnesses for the prosecution have been found murdered or have disappeared into thin air. Up to now, even with a new administration, and a new prosecutor, in place, the long arm of the Maguindanao warlord family that enjoyed a close relationship with Arroyo appears to be superior to the reach of the law.

Considering the setbacks in the Maguindanao massacre and electoral sabotage cases, the grave question is whether the prosecution can swiftly and properly try its witnesses in the matter of their safety and protection, so that they will provide convincing testimony willingly and properly—in short, deliver the legal goods against Arroyo and her contractual, and revenge trails life and limb teams. While Arroyo may remain a flight risk, the greatest concern in the risks faced by the prosecution witnesses.



Watch your back

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

PRESIDENT AQUINO'S chief State of the Nation Address promises to roll public soapboxes. Remember the mood before he delivered his first State? Then was a time of unwarranted hopes.

"What If This Leader Fails?" written by socialist Miguel Tujano (b. an Inter-national Herald Tribune op-ed column, summed it up best. To quote:

As with Switzerland Marcos, Joseph Estrada's reign reinforced "futile absolutes of good and evil." Estrada got a life term for plunder. Filipinos had a leader who let them down. Again.

In 2004, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo reneged on her promise not to seek reelection. Illegitimate against GMA grew kilometric. Many opposing Arroyo sanctioned futuristic lawsuits. The country lavished into another dead-end.

"Time horizons of protest logic I've learned from Philippine politics, it's that bad people doing selfish things can sometimes move toward the common good." But what of good and evil? Did malnutrition move from corrupt greed, dying? Or was it to ensure that was short?

Now comes the rise of zenarchy and a mist of democracy. Noynoy's landslide victory "speaks to his apparent integrity, paucity of palatable alternatives, and "lifting" of the Aquino brand."

"He travels a minefield of chronic corruption, tonnage and shifting allegiances. In this like routes have drawn, there's always a second act in Philippine politics ... (PNP) for that power hold? Ninety million people are watching waiting. (Noynoy, Noynoy don't let us down.)

Fast forward to the eve of P-Noy's June 25. This time around, "honesty is not an issue," warns columnist Ben Chanco. Come 2010, he'll warn, is the simple "times. Given history of his parents. "But he has to succeed...for our sake. It makes no sense to waste three more years of waiting for the next president...who, to many nationalists, will be a replay of (Ate Glo) Macapagal-Arroyo." Watch Vice President Jejomar Binay and Senator Jinggoy Estrada and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to push the voters—and break into old ground.

Is P-Noy fulfilling our hopes? "Most those out of his adult Filipinos are satisfied with the overall performance of the Aquino administration," says the July 16 Social Weather Stations survey.

Ignore the yacht that wrought mayhem on Corinthian with Aviana. Violence is the last refuge of scoundrels. Sour the exclusion of lobbyists advocates, like the Freedom of Information bill, or the lag in the crackdown on human rights. Some issue P-Noy does nothing right. Pulong Duque is no bulag for if you were nagbubulagbulagan. "None are so blind as those who refuse to see."

Look at the larger picture. The Philippines got eight positive credit ratings by international agencies in a row. "Pure luck?" The Philippine Stock Exchange index surged 44 times over the last year. In the first quarter of 2012, GDP grew by 6.4 percent, second only to China.

Are we indeed Asia's next tiger? asks Rockspin Weekly quarterly. The debate will continue, as it should in a free society. "Get your facts first," Mark Twain once counseled. "Then, you can distort them as you please."

Some undisputed facts. The key Functional Pantawid Pilipino program today serves five times more than during the first Gma. Now, 1.67 million mothers get regular checkups. Over 1.02 million kids receive immunizations for diarrhea, polio, measles, etc. And 1.37 million, who would have dropped out due to poverty, are in school.

Raids on the coffers of government-owned or controlled firms have stopped. In the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, for example, officials helped themselves to 25 bonuses every year, under different labels. They included three Malgayang Pako bonuses. The uproar started after P-Noy, in his first Sona, skewered the salaries of 41 officials, four time of 736 GOCCs. Former National Treasurer Leonor Briones wrote: "The same are only the tip of the iceberg."

Before the year's end, we will see more needed to fill up the gap will be built. This year, too, will end down a backlog of 61.7 million overdrafts. We will achieve the one-to-one ratio of books to students—finally. The University of the Philippines got a 63-percent hike. In D-Day emerging as the "Edsamian Presidency"? The annual UP professor on the ABS-CBN panel for the Sona asked.

Significantly, these gains were made without clamping on new taxes. The elbow room came from curbing corruption. Take the Department of Public Works and Highways. The crackdown on rigged bidding and procurement enabled it to save P30.6 billion from 2011 in June of this year.

In 2008, corruption here was "the worst among East Asia's leading economies," the World Bank noted. "It sank even lower among those new to be lagging in governance reforms." Pie distilled dried by just with Pakistan, Bangladesh and Belarus in the 2009 Corruption Perceptions Index, published by Transparency International. The Philippines ranked 139th among 180 countries included in the index then.

In the 2012 Corruption Perceptions Index, the Philippines improved to 33rd No. 134. "We rebuilt our way up," Transparency International Philippines board member Aniceto Sobrado-Villanueva said. "But, there is still a lot of room for improvement."

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* * *

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Carpio still best man for SC's top post

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

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The two lady members, I must say, behaved impeccably, keeping their dignity at all times, and were never guilty of the behaviors listed above. I expected it of retired Court of Appeals Justice Aurora Lapitan, who has always impressed me. But Cebuy Bernas's daughter, who was a rookie to me, behaved like a chip off the old block, inside of the same stuff her father was. I congratulate them both.

It was a genuine stroke of Du-30(, though, to allow Juan de la Cruz to contribute questions through Twitter. If one notes that the questions from the public were more direct and to the point than those of the JBC members, it might be because there are limits to the length of a Twitter message, and not necessarily because the public is better than the JBC in asking questions. But one thing is sure: These were interesting questions, some of the un-boilerplated variety.

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People v. Mangahas (1939)

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

VILLEJO v. Mangahas" is a Supreme Court ruling (G.R. No. 46651, Dec. 12, 1939) which I discovered several genuinely last week upon googling my column, "The state of the people," prior to posting on Facebook.

The appellant of the case was the writer Inday Mangahas, my father, who never encountered it in his lifetime. Now, he never has a brief spot of to tell story, thanks to Google, which apparently looked up "Mangahas" and "people" together.

The ruling (Justice Jose P. Laurel, ponente), tells us that:

In the last month of the decision rendered by the Court of First Instance of Quezon province convicted one Sr., 37-31, The People of the Philippines vs. Salvador Mangahas, et al., convicting the accused therein, except one, of the crime of robbery committed in band, a documentary letter signed by Luis M. Taruc, was addressed to His Excellency, the President of the Philippines. As copy of said letter was found to be the herein respondent, Pedro to Gregorio who, in obedience of Mr. Taruc, a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, quoted the letter in an article published by him in the issue of that paper of September 22, 1937."

The letter, on the petition of the provincial fiscal of Pampanga, filed with the Court of First Instance of that province on Sept. 29, 1937, the following portion of Mangahas' article constituted contempt of court:

Tiburcio (52) tenants in Hacienda Tarlac, Pampanga, have been charged and convicted on a charged up charge of robbery in band for nothing more than for the crime of going to the President to give their names of pains for their representation and their families to be paid later with their share of their crop. But this is not all. When the convicted tenants appealed the case and were returned on bail pending their appeal, court and public officials exercised pressure upon some of their landowners to withdraw their bonds, and the latter, in order to avoid trouble, withdrew the bonds, and the [illegible] tenants were arrested again and put in jail."

On Sept. 29, 1937, the lower court ordered the respondent to appear and show cause. The respondent (represented by Antonio Enriquez K. Antonio) appeared and answered:

- That he did not draft and write the quoted paragraph above quoted in the petition of the provincial fiscal, but the same is merely a part of a letter addressed to the President and the Philippines;
- That he caused the said letter to be copied in without comments or remarks, as soon he attached the issue of the "The Tribune" on Sept. 23, 1937;
- That in having the said letter copied it was not his intention, purpose or design to attack the honesty, integrity and impartiality of the honorable court, but merely intended to be an instance of the popular resolve to support to the President in everything;
- That he bona reflecting on the honor, status and reputation of this honorable court, the publication of the letter to the President simply contributes to the honor to the President simply contributes to the honor to the President simply contributes to the honor

Invest in youth for defense

LETTERS

THE GEORGE presents "Some the longest journey begins with the first step." Inspires us assistance. Do we guess planning a base on Asia borough Group or more to other territorial waters, even as (a) Ministry of Civil Affairs has announced the establishment of Sandra City to administer the Kalayaan (Spratly) Group of Islands, Bancoli Islands, and Islas Scarboro Bank—the most assertive declaration of China's claim to all the islands, reefs and shoals within the Nine Dotted Line in South China Sea after the departure of the United States military bases from Clark and Subic in the late 1970s.

Meanwhile, in an (2) (1-4000) our present request in the Scarborough Shoal and the Kalayaan Group of Islands with our "escape" has gotten fairly fast and Coast Guard. China continues to show off its military might and political coercing, evidently for the "benefit" of other claimants countries.

For years our military has been preoccupied with internal security while its well-thought-out modernization plans for external defense more put on the back burner on account of its limited budget. However, a maritime strategy should not be brought at loss against a numerically and military superior power, does not depend solely on "alliances and hosts of "foe allies or its best weapons, its people.

Small but militarily astute and confident countries like Israel, Switzerland, Singapore, and Taiwan have strategy reserve versus owing to their consumption philosophy. Their National Service (NS) programs prepare their young men and women at age for military and civil defense roles, ready for mission in times of war and national emergencies requiring quick response.

It is distressing that we have a growing population of able-bodied but unskilled young men who end up with little training stuck to do of very high school, and in some cases getting involved in undesirable activities. It is whether studies in the ND program that progressive countries currently implement starting in boot camp, we could harness our untapped human resources in better mental states into becoming progressive, law-abiding citizens, other than cultivating friendships or honing their (local) fighting skills. Moreover, tasks and livelihood skills initiated by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority may very well be incorporated into a self-defense and empowerment driven training program, supplemented with values formation necessary for nation-building according to our needs for our defense is to young for a secure and self-reliant nation.

—REY L. TRAJANO,
reytrajano@gmail.com

ABC fellow clarifies attributions

I SHOULD like to clarify the statement attributed to me in the article titled "Pit count of 'illegal' live reef, aquarium fish trade" (Inquirer.net, 7/12/12).

The title of the article states that the Philippines is the "center" of the "illegal" live reef, aquarium fish trade. This argued to four fish, the data are in fact not conclusive. The Philippines is certainly a highly significant exporter of live reef food fish, but this by no means suggests that the country is the "center" of the trade, or that other countries do not export (e.g., Indonesia, Malaysia). As we face similar challenges, historically, the question of "legality" is very vexed since the legal status of the trade in the Philippines is open to a wide range of interpretations, which can also depend on which particular aspect or location of the trade you are talking about.

Some further details:

• I believe actually suggest that suppliers obtain a significant part of the trade in Bicutan, as is implied in the second paragraph.

• I am not aware of juvenile snappers being reared live in captivity in Bicutan.

• The article states: "While fishers who engage in live reef fishing are highly literate, enabling them to access basic and economic services, they know that what they are doing is unsustainable," Milan said." What I said during my presentation was: "And so fishermen are highly literate, they are aware of the issues involved; they recognize that the current patterns of fishing are likely not sustainable, but this recognition is clouded by such strongly concrete economic imperatives that they have no other choice." The published academic paper that I handed out only referred to survey data showing that the majority of fishermen in the surveyed area perceived declines in the size and catch of leopard coral grouper over in the "length" of their fishing trips has increased.

—EIL MICHAEL PARNELL
mparnell@ateneo.edu,
ABC Centre of Excellence
for Coral Reef Studies,
James Cook University, Australia,
michael.fabricius@jcu.edu.au

NDFP government urged to return to negotiating table

AFTER THE exploratory talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on July 17 in Malaysia, which was apparently a success, a rebel negotiator joined Vice Mayor Lourdes, chief of the government negotiating panel, in stating that the point "just with the MILF is over... Let us preserve now." Now it's back to square one for peace.

Meanwhile, while MILF-led negotiations are reportedly equally optimistic.

We fear that this is true, and we hope that the same thing shall happen with the negotiations between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). The fifteen-year decades-of-armed conflict between government and revolutionary forces have caused an inordinate of precious lives among our peace-loving people.

The Ecumenical Bishops Forum calls on the government and the NDFP negotiating panels to seize this historic chance for united formal peace talks for the sake of our country and people. Obstacles in the resumption of the peace talks should be resolved speedily. We appreciate the call of the Philippine Ecumenical Bishop Forum for the "release on temporary" of the detained NDFP consultants, together with the "cessation of hostilities" in order to usher our, early of them in order to pave the way for the resumption of the peace talks. We urge the parties, more to take advantage of this unofficial offer without requiring immediate agreement or imposing unrealistic conditions.

The remaining substantial issues of the talks, if and when successfully addressed by both panels, will truly bring us pure that genuine peace our people have long been yearning for. The designs of the Creator of life is that peace based on justice should reign in the land, so that the land shall be enjoyed by all. "Then justice will reign through all the land, and out of justice, peace. Quietness and confidence will reign forever" (Isaiah 32:16,17).

Let us all push for the peace talks to resume now. Now is indeed the time for peace.

The resolution of armed conflicts and the dawn of peace bring genuine development. Our countries deserve to live in unprecedented peace ages, we had wanted to hear him say the same sentiment that "now is indeed the time for peace") in his third State of the Nation Address last Monday. It has been that, we also wanted to hear him utter the great peace pursuit to usher in the beginning talks within the month if not within one week.

—BISHOP ELMER M. BOLOCON,
CHAIRMAN; BISHOP EFREN
MONDEJAR; BISHOP EFRAIM
QUITORIANO, D.D., and BISHOP NELLIE G. ESPAÑOL,
their pictures,
Ecumenical Bishops Forum,
ecumenicalbishopsforum@yahoo.com

THE POSTER says it all: peace talks, not gunfire

2-for-1 JBC seat 'incomprehensible'

SEN. LOUIS "Barok" C. Biazon and Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas are both law professors at Constitutional Law—and who said more to be lose-lose and rubbish—could not suppress their disgust and utter astonishment at the proposition that the one slot for Congress (and certainly, only one vote) in the Judicial and Bar Council can be represented by two members of the legislative body and can cast two votes. They say there is no ambiguity in the constitutional provision that all the components of the membership of the council are limited to only one representative (from each sector).

My take is that they are absolutely correct and indisputably so. Congress' and legal practitioners may advance the absurd argument that if indeed the two representatives of Congress may still cast as JBC members and logically can control to one-half vote each, then it does in no mandate Congress from sending 10 of their ilk, and it's only fair to count their votes as 1/20 of the electoral vote and vice versa then see, we absolutely reject any attempt to comprehend this and I disagree!

—JOSE ALCUAZ ALAPAN, JR.,
national president,
Integrated Bar of the Philippines
(IBP-1999),
josealapan@yahoo.com.ph

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London Olympics has eye on legacy

COMMENTARY

Jacques Rogge

IF THE end of every Olympic Games, it falls on the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to try to characterize the 16 days of competition in a single phrase. "Exceptional," "magnificent," and "unforgettable" are just a few of the descriptions used for recent editions of the Games having my time in power.

But how will London be remembered? Record-breaking? Certainly. Feel Gathering Rain? Let's just keep our fingers crossed.

Whatever the ringside of the much debated legacy of the Games themselves will truly have all the elements necessary for success—not just for the two weeks of competition, but long, long after the flame has been extinguished. This is thanks to the local organizers who have firmly rooted the foundations of the Games in the concept of legacy since the event will have behind when the last athlete turns off the lights in the Olympic Village and heads for home.

The London Organizing Committee's chair, Sebastian Coe, knows he has some very tough customers to please. As he recently put it: "The more demanding stakeholders are my own but is not the International Olympic Committee, not the government. It's actually the populations of the city and the country who are determining the Games. And the key question they ask is: What are you leaving behind?"

With such demanding judges, Lord Coe and his team simply had to put legacy at the heart of their bid. And success in 2012 seems to have birthed a great thrill for the citizens of the host city and country. They spoke of inspiring a generation, of revitalizing long-depressed areas of London, of providing Londoners with improved infrastructure, employment opportunities, access to sports facilities. With the help of unwavering governmental support in all levels, the organizers have already taken a huge step toward achieving this extremely noble.

For example, prior to the Games' arrival, 75 percent has been dedicated to legacy purposes. This minutes helped finance the radical transformation of a huge section of East London from a contaminated, neglected landfill into the glittering new Olympic Park, which will be preserved into an impressive and sustainable community offering jobs, housing, schools and leisure activities after the Games. Thanks to the Olympic Park Legacy Company, six of the eight permanent venues have already found post-Games uses—a major achievement in itself.

Legacy has not always been to the fore front of Olympic planning, however. Many years ago it was sometimes more of an afterthought to Games organizers, a concept often left to the experts. Both cities and countries have learned from others in this regard.

The IOC recognized that for a city to truly leverage the Olympic Games as a catalyst for

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Assoc. Chief Connie E. Fernandez

Plea to Oslob: Stop feeding whale sharks

By Cris Ervel B. Luis
Cebu City

A PHOTOGRAPH of a wounded "butanding" or whale shark has gone viral on social networking sites.

The butanding turned out to be "Fermin," one of the whale sharks that regularly approach the bancas to be fed by fishermen and tourists in the waters off Oslob town, 137 kilometers south of Cebu City.

According to marine researchers, Fermin suffered deep cuts that might have been caused by boat propellers, rewarding calls to stop the practice of feeding the whale sharks, which has become a major tourist attraction in Oslob.

The practice doesn't only affect the whale sharks' ability to hunt for food, but it also puts them at risk of getting hurt like what happened to Fermin.

ENVIRONMENTAL: groups have renewed calls to stop the feeding of whale sharks in the waters off Oslob town, southern Cebu, after "Fermin" suffered 11 wounds believed to have been caused by boat propellers.

Conservation

Dr. Alessandro Ponzo, president of the Italian marine research organization Physalus, said Fermin was seen on June 23 in the water off Sumilon Island, Oslob town, with "very deep propeller cuts on the head."

Physalus initiated the Large Marine Vertebrates Project (Lamave) in the Philippines in 2010. The project pushes for conservation of marine animals through volunteerism and research, and works with government agencies to reach out to communities and the private sector. It started its marine mammals efforts in Bohol province and later expanded to the neighboring provinces of Negros Oriental and Cebu.

Lamave researchers saw it Oslob on check on Fermin. Samantha Cuevas, Lamave's principal investigator on the Oslob Whale Shark Project, said Fermin suffered 11 cuts including a second that cut across his left eye. They could not yet tell the extent of the damage to the eye.

She said sharks never last healers as they continue to examine Fermin's healing. "People should know that it is wrong to cause the wounds of wildlife with our interference. A lot of them are allergic to our medicines and that may cause harm and slow down the healing process," said Cuevas, a marine biologist who is half Filipino and half British.

Cuevas said Fermin was last seen in the waters off Oslob on July 16. Others he remained on July 20, local fishermen said Fermin was not feeding and had several scars across his face.

Fermin or Shark 9 (SI) is the third whale shark identified in December 2011 by marine biologist Rene Rex, World Wildlife Fund for Nature-Philippines' project manager.

Fermin's presence along with six other whale sharks in the waters off Oslob have enticed tourists to visit the southern Cebu town to interact with the "gentle giants." Local fishermen with some tourists on board paddle boats and feed the whale sharks with baby shrimps, locally called "sipag," as they swim around the designated recreation area, which is about 30 meters from the shoreline.

Interaction is between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. as the whale sharks can "rest." Motorboats are not allowed in whale watching.

Whale shark feeding has become a major tourism attraction and income earner of Oslob, a fourth-class municipality with a population of about 26,000 based on the 2010 census.

But the practice has long been opposed by Ace and Lamave researchers because it disrupts the whale sharks' natural feeding behavior.

In his open letter to the secretaries of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Ace said scientists studying whale sharks in the Philippines were concerned about the possible changes in behavior of these whale sharks in Oslob that are now accustomed to feeding.

He said discussions about Oslob's new tourist attraction didn't focus on the whale sharks but only on the activity's tourism potential.

"Whale sharks exhibited head scratches and scrapes from bumping into feeder boats. In addition, they have been observed to seemingly accumulate bubbles from divers and snorkelers with food," he said in his letter.

"While this behavior is already accepted and understood by the fishermen of Oslob (who are not allowed to use motorboats to position the whale sharks), it might pose a different situation once these migratory whale sharks move outside of Oslob," he added.

In the case of Fermin, Ace said the whale shark's mind apparently of bumping the boat from behind might be seen as an aggressive behavior by other fishermen, causing them to aim on their motors and fears. Fermin might be hit by the propeller causing the wounds, Ace said.

Vulnerable

Whale sharks are classified as vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. They are also listed in both Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, and the Convention on Migratory Species.

Ace said the whale shark was also protected in the Philippines under Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, and Republic Act No. 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code.

"There surely is some kind of overlapping task between these agencies but instead of pointing to each other and/or claiming responsibilities, it is always beneficial if both can work together to achieve a certain goal," he said.

Physalus' Lamave project has identified over 60 whale sharks in the interaction area of Tañon, Oslob. Ten of them are seen daily, an increase from the six seen last April.

In his statement, Lamave said the number of propeller scars on the sharks in Oslob had increased since June although not as grave as what happened to Fermin.

They also expressed concern over the current of neighboring municipalities like Moalboal, which is currently discussing an ordinance for whale shark interaction with intent to feed.

Spread of feeding

Cuevas said Fermin was the first of the whale sharks to obtain serious injury but the number could increase as sharks continue to develop the behavior of associating boats with food.

"The spread of feeding activities to other municipalities could increase and increase the number of sharks learning this behavior, and thereby exposing a greater proportion of the whale shark population in the Visayas to serious injury," Lamave said in its statement.

Cuevas said they would continue to work with the local community to raise awareness and education about marine life. "There is still not enough education and awareness about the butanding. A lot of people still call them whales. There has to be a collaborative effort among all people to make this more sustainable," said Cuevas.

Turning poverty into opportunity

By Charmie Uval
Cebu City

IT WAS their final exams. His heart was pounding while his hands were clammy and sweating. He was nervous, not because he did not study but because his teacher might not allow him to take the exams since his mother was not able to pay his tuition again.

Although it was not easy, Pedro Sharda Saberon finally graduated last year from the University of Cebu (UC) in Banilad, Banilad, Cebu City.

But his struggles to finish his degree in Bachelor of Science in Administration became his inspiration to help the poor but determined students to complete even a secondary education.

On May 4, 2009, Saberon formed the Gobusiao Youth Entrepreneurs (GYE) Inc. composed of 20 to 30 student leaders in Cebu whose primary goal is to help the students finish their elementary and high school education.

Their main project is called "Banuaderbula," which is coined from the words "basura (garbage)" and "sabwela (school)." The group collects donated tarpaulins from advertisements and other private organizations.

These, in turn, will be made into bags by members of Tipolo Graduate Urban Poor Home Owners Association (TGUPHAI) Inc., a women's group from Barangay Tipolo in Mandaue City.

The GYE also forms a partnership with Tzu-chi, a nongovernment organization that helps poor students in Cebu. Tzu-chi provides the children books and school supplies.

The Junior Chamber International (JCI)-Cebu, sells the Banuaderbula products in Cebu.

A bag usually costs P300 apiece. Of the amount, P100 goes to the members of TGUPHAI while P100 goes to the volunteers of Banuaderbula while P100 goes into the education of Banuaderbula's student-beneficiaries.

On June 20, JCI-Cebu earned over P30,000 in CDO after selling 100 bags.

The women of TGUPHAI are also happy with GYE's Banuaderbula project. "Banuaderbula is a good project because it also helps us earn a living while it sends our children to school," Rizki Tipasan, a TGUPHAI member, said.

The GYE has 50 student-beneficiaries from the Tinguib Urban Poor Community in Mandaue City this year. There are elementary and high school students whose education will be supported by the organization until they graduate from high school.

"The more fraternities we collect, the more bags we make and the more beneficiaries we can support," Saberon said.

He added that GYE was planning to help 20 more students from Pinamungahan town to continue Cebu after sending a newspaper article that these children walk to school barefoot.

Saberon pointed out that these children would have to endure the pain of walking barefoot to school especially with the K-12 program of the Department of Education that adds two more years in the 10-year basic education program.

"We will help them so they will not have difficulties in going to school," he said.

Saberon said the plight of these children reminded him of his own struggles in trying to get a college degree. "I don't want them to suffer like I did," he said.

Born and raised in Davao, Saberon was only seven when his father, Pablo Saberon, died in 1997.

His mother, Alili, a government clerk, was left alone to raise seven children on a meager pay.

Saberon was 14 when he started working to find food shares to be able to graduate from high school. He even tried to be a driver to three salesmen of vacuum cleaners.

Saberon, the fifth child and the only son, felt the need to take over the role of his father. After graduating from high school, he decided to go to Cebu to look for a job.

He worked as a call center agent while studying in the UC and took up Office Administration.

There were times he could pay his tuition. But there he also used money to his family in Davao, he often had to sign promissory notes because he could not pay his tuition on time.

But his financial woes didn't stop him from helping others. While in the UC, he was elected president of the UC Business Student Council and focused on helping other students who had difficulty finishing a degree because of poverty.

Republic of the Philippines
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3. All buyers must meet the Eligibility Requirements (ER) of HGC.
4. Details of the property, the instructions to buyers, and other pertinent documents can be obtained from the HGC Asset Management Department located at the 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.
5. The ER Documents and Financial Proposal shall be sealed and dropped at the designated drop box located at the 4th Floor Lobby, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.
6. Schedule of activities:

ACTIVITIES	DATE / TIME
1. Issuance of Sales Documents (Instructions to Buyers, List of Eligibility Requirements, and Property Profile)	July 30 to August 3, 2012
2. Pre-Registration Conference	August 6, 2012 Monday - 2:00p.m.
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Financial Proposals	August 6 to August 15, 2012

7. Submission of proposals shall not bind the Corporation to award the sale of the property to the parties concerned.

For inquiries, please call Mr. Roger F. Baliga of our Asset Management Department at telephone numbers 880-0425 and 887-3149 or visit our office at the 4th Floor Jade Building, 335 Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR ACCEPT SUCH PROPOSALS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) GORAZON G. CORPUZ
Acting Executive Vice President

Across the NATION

HEAVENLY TOWERS
The massive protruding towers of Iglesia ni Cristo on Magsaysay Avenue in Baguio City are vaguely seen through the thick early morning fog as members of the church around the world celebrate its 99th founding anniversary this 27th of July.
NONOY NAVARRO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Ecija townsfolk suffer from power mess

By Anselmo Roque and Armand Galang
Inquirer Central Luzon

PANTABANGAN, Nueva Ecija—Gasoline stations here have started to prescribe a daily schedule for pumping fuel. Businessmen who could afford the extra expense have secured generators to keep their businesses going.

At Pantabangan East Central School, pupils sweat profusely through classroom lessons because their two ceiling fans do not function.

"When the day turns gloomy due to rains, it gets dark, and my pupils have problems reading the lessons on the chalkboard," said teacher Liezl Antolino.

This has been life in Pantabangan since July 23 after First Gen Hydro Power Corp. (FGHPC) stopped servicing the town government run Pantabangan Municipal Electric Service (Panesi), owing to the latter's failure to pay its outstanding loan of more than P80 million.

Residents said the problem was that Mayor Romeo Bodia Jr. never explained what happened that led to the power cutoff for their leaders plan to pester the government to solve the problem quickly by recovering power service.

"This power cutoff is really a big problem for us. It is paralyzing us and its effects are pulling our town down the sink," said Hermenio Reyes, a retired Army colonel who now chairs the protest group La Solidaridad.

La Solidaridad is composed of several representatives who banded together to address the alleged mismanagement of their town.

"Look at this problem that we have now. It is simply a result of financial mismanagement by our town leaders," Reyes told the Inquirer.

He said he was scheduled to meet Mayor Jerry Bulgado of Alfonso Castañeda town in Nueva Vizcaya, the suburb of their town and the Province of Ilocos Sur to discuss plans for the protest actions. Alfonso Castañeda also sources electricity from Panesi.

"The people are paying [their bills], why should they suffer," Reyes complained.

In a statement, FGHPC, which owns and operates the Pantabangan-Masiway hydroelectric complex and supplies power to Panesi, said it was constrained to cut power supply after Panesi failed to settle the more than P80 million it owes the power generating firm. The amount represents the unpaid power bills of Panesi since 2008.

It said FGHPC had been supplying power to Panesi despite the expiry of the power supply agreement with the distribution firm in December 2006 "previously out of great concern for the welfare of Pantabangan residents and other Panesi consumers."

"We have been trying to hold off on the decision to cut off power supply to Panesi but we cannot afford to delay the action anymore, as we also have a responsibility to long-term operations entered considering that FGHPC also supplies power to two other electric cooperatives, a government agency and an industrial customer," the FGHPC statement said.

It also said it was exploring options on "how we can assist in providing temporary electric supply to critical institutions, such as public schools in Pantabangan."

Reyes said the scandal-ridden cronyism they raised in 2010 about the municipal government's fiscal mismanagement the said 33 retired Army and police officers have volunteered to help him discuss La Solidaridad's issues when they visit the villages.

"Now that they are suffering immediately because of the power cutoff, [people] are beginning to support us in bringing [real] the life in our town," he said.

"Our town is rich but the money is being used for something else," he added.

Citing a 2008 Commission on Audit report, Reyes said the town operated two years ago with a cash flow of P178,035 million from its internal revenue allotment and tax revenues. It spent P151,922 million.

But the report cited most "misfeasances" in its spending, including the payment of P51,237 million for salaries of job order workers and consultants, the delay in the remittances of their liabilities amounting to P88.56 million, and unliquidated cash advances granted to officials without proper justifications.

The report compelled Reyes and his group to request the Office of the Ombudsman to look into the town's finances. They said they were asking Bodia and his son, Vice Mayor Romeo Bodia Jr., to account for no P86-million loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines that was secured to finance education and computerization projects.

Antonio Tupla, president of Pantabangan Municipal Employees Union, said that despite their town's status as a first class municipality, their salaries are often delayed and their mandatory contributions to the Government Service Insurance System, the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (Pag-Ibig Fund), and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. have not been remitted by their municipal government.

At a recent forum, Bodia Sr. said, "Let me answer all these complaints and allegations [when] there are raised before [the] proper bodies."

NEWSBRIEFS

■ ZAMBALES

Pilot, student survive plane crash

A PILOT and his student were hurt on Friday when their Cessna training plane crashed into the waters off a beach resort in Barangay Lipay Dingin-Pandayan in Botolan town, according to reports reaching the office of the Philippine Air Force Command.

The reports said Capt. John Paul Moreno and his student, Dryan Mallari, suffered injuries and were rushed to Sta. Cecilia Medical Center in Iba.

Witnesses said they heard the plane make unusual sounds as it descended toward the sea, 20 meters from the beach resort. Residents and rescue workers pulled out Moreno and Mallari and took them to the hospital. **Jhaar Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon**

■ CEBU

Fire hits village

THREE houses, a restaurant and a bakery went up in smoke on Friday after a fire hit a portion of Barangay Buanoy, Balamban town.

No one was hurt but fire investigators pegged the damage at P1.3 million.

SFO1 Rachel Tapia, investigator of the Balamban Fire Station, said the fire of still unknown origin broke out at 2:30 p.m. from an abandoned house owned by Cherry Tarrazas, across the Cebu-Toledo-Negros Occidental Highway.

Tapia said the fire spread to the nearby houses of Ricky Tarrazas, Ricky Tarrazas Jr. and Rosalinda Tarrazas, and the bakery owned by Rosalinda Tarrazas.

Tapia said the fire was fanned by strong winds. Investigators estimated the damage at P1.3 million. **Jhaar Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon**

Mayor tagged in murder of judge

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A municipal mayor, a government employee and five communist rebels were charged for the murder in April of a Regional Trial Court judge in Bog ocnon, Negros Occidental.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed the murder complaint against Bog. Mayor John Paul Alvarez and 10 others about 4:30 p.m. Friday in the Department of Justice in Manila.

The inquiries relied to reporter Alvarez, son of Negros Occidental Vice Gov. Gerardo Alvarez and brother of Rep. Mercedes Alvarez of the province's 6th district, but he could not be reached for comment.

His father, however, maintained that his son had nothing to do with the killing of Judge Henry Adre of RTC Branch 52 in Kabankalan City.

"We are not aware that a case has been filed. He was interviewed. We will consult and face the matter in court," said the vice governor.

Also included in the complaint were Bog. administrative aide Emmanuel Mendoza as well as five members of the Southern Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Hiro. Bonanjo Brigade —Marvin Soliv, Gerald Gallano, Jessie Zeñones Dagnia, Alejandro Castillo Capuncog and Edilito Magno Fernando.

Lawyer Frank Billanes, brother-in-law of the judge, said Mendoza was a close friend and personal aide of the mayor.

Soliv and Gallano remained at large while the three others were under the NBI custody in Manila following their arrest last month for illegal possession of firearms.

The six respondents were accused of taking part in the murder of Adre who was ambushed while heading home to Dog on April 24.

Lawyer Allore Adre and his brother Philip Adre, both sons of the slain judge, acted as complainants, said Bacolod NBI chief Ferdinand Lavin.

In the complaint, Allore claimed that his father was killed because he had helped the Ian Gamelle Antonio Diquillina in following up the graft case the latter filed against Mayor Alvarez in the Office of the Ombudsman.

He claimed that the mayor hired the NPA-ARB members to kill his father Fortunato allegedly because of P70,000 from Mendez for the hit. The NPA-ARB member surrendered P50,000 to the NBI after he was arrested in a Bacolod bus terminal on June 23 for carrying an unlicensed gun.

Alvarez and seven other Bog officials were charged with graft for unlawfully repairing and replacing the motor engine of a Mitsubishi Pajero.

Halt black sand mining, Cagayan gov orders

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SANTIAGO, Nueva Vizcaya —Cagayan Gov. Alvaro Antonio on Sunday ordered eight companies conducting black sand extraction activities in three coastal towns to stop operating.

In his order, Antonio cited the recommendation of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) which noted violations in the firms' operations in Aparri, Buguey and Gonzaga town based on field visits by its monitoring teams in June and on July 23.

Antonio sought the assistance of the Philippine National Police in implementing the cease-and-desist order.

In his letter to the governor, Efisio Ancheta, acting MGB-Cagayan Valley director, said the team discovered that black sand extraction in the three coastal towns breached the 2009 order prohibited near sea sandmen, as provided by law.

He, however, declined to name the eight firms whose operations were halted, saying the list should be obtained from the provincial government.

The Inquirer tried to reach Provincial Environment Officer Roberto Adap but he did not return calls on his mobile phone.

MGB sources, who declined to be named for lack of authority to speak on the matter, said those that were issued orders were mostly foreign firms.

Ancheta also recommended the suspension of all cinguetite sand mining permits issued by the provincial government and asked the governor to order the companies to immediately remove camouflage nets.

Sought for comment, the Federation of Environment Advocates (Fea), a group of non-government organizations opposed to black sand mining in Cagayan, expressed skepticism over Antonio's orders.

"We just hope that these orders will be implemented by the concerned government agencies, and not just for show, like what we have seen in the past," said attorney Marlon Ruiz, president.

Cebu City placed on high alert for barangay plebiscite today

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Doris C. Bongcac
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The entire Cebu City has been placed on heightened alert in preparation for today's plebiscite that will determine whether to split the city's biggest barangay into two or not.

Senior Supt. Ramon Melvin Bucoy, Cebu City police director, said he had the highest ranks in Barangay Guadalupe so that other police units can immediately respond in case of an emergency.

At least 80 policemen would be deployed around the entirety of Guadalupe Elementary School, the designated voting center of the plebiscite in nine precincts and eight total bgy. Fire-sigue Bohilla, Guadalupe Police Precinct chief.

He said 33 policemen from the Civil Disturbance Management would be on stand-by at the City Police Office.

Bohilla said he can assure people up a tree in front of the school since they were not allowed to come the voting area. no action asked by a teacher or a commission broke out.

Voting will start at 7 a.m. and will end at 3 p.m., just like in regular elections.

Split

The barangay's 28,433 registered voters will have to decide if they want a new barangay to be formed from Barangay Guadalupe, which will be named Barangay Binaya Kagha.

Barangay Binaya Kagha was created by virtue of Republic Act No. 9983 authored by former Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu City north district and passed on Jan. 7, 2010.

If the "yes" vote wins, Cebu City will have a new barangay, which will be composed of Sitios Binaya, Kagha and portions of Labangon, particularly near the boundary of Banawa.

But if the "no" vote wins, Barangay Guadalupe remains as the largest as the city's biggest barangay.

Politicians

The barangay is home to at least two prominent politicians in Cebu City—former allies Rep. Tomas Osmeña of Cebu City's south district and Cuenco.

Osmeña earlier said he would not vote in the plebiscite because he wanted to leave it up to other Guadalupe residents to decide on the split.

Cuenco campaigned for the "yes" vote but promised to respect the outcome of the plebiscite.

Cuenco is running for south district congressman in 2013 elections, a position he had held from 2007 to 1998 and from 2001 to 2010.

Unlike in the previous elections where he ran under the Barugo Osmeña Pesudo Binaramgan, Cuenco will be campaigning under Team Rama of Mayor Michael Rama, another BOPK stalwart who broke off with the party following a public spat with the party head, Osmeña.

Osmeña and Rama will face off in the mayoral race in 2013 polls.

Hot Rain or Shine mows down B-Meg in Game 3

By Mooning R. Candido

WITH its outside game on target for most of last night, Rain or Shine stormed to a 2-1 lead in the PBA Governors' Cup title series with B-Meg after a 93-84 conquest of Del Libanan-Jon or Smart Araneta Coliseum.

After getting the job done following a commanding shooting display in the second half, Rain or Shine coach Yeng Guiao remained on target with his bold prediction to win solo or without the injured guard Paul Lee and open rook duos at Tim Cone and Ilan Ilan.

"We played as hard as we could tonight," Guiao said after pulling 26 points and 23 rebounds from Jacielle Conley and 10 second half points from Jeff Chan. "Without Paul Lee, we might not have the biggest complement we could if to our play for him.

"We helped as we here," he continued before dropping another bombshell. "They (his players) play with a lot of toughness that comes from inside, and not just from a t-shirt."

Guiao was obviously referring to the jerseys worn by members of the B-Meg squad that had the phrase "Only tough guys need apply" printed at the back.

And the firebrand coach wasn't finished.

"We did not ask for our help from the referees. Like 20 Mg coach Tim Cone did after Game 1 and just played as hard as we could," Guiao stressed. "But it also for the five people who believe in us."

The Elasto Painters, who are chasing the very first title in their 20th existence, broke away in the final quarter by using the outside shot as a lethal weapon.

Chan, who was scoreless in the first two periods and was held to 2-of-2 field from beyond the arc during the first half, connected on three straight treys in the third quarter to help Rain or Shine build a 70-61 lead.

Conley, who was limited to 12 points in the first half, added another as the cross entered just one attempt from that distance to highlight a 39-point quarter.

The Painters also let it off 16 postmarker attempts in the period as compared to the Llamados' 1-of-12 clip from the outside area.

Sensing that the game was getting out of hand, Cone scolded his men in the bench in an effort to preserve them for the next battle.

"My job is not to coach the referees (Jon Escalopping James) Yap said the other days on the bench in the third. "Come said, 'Listen the fans but I can't worry about them. Maybe we may make them happy on Sunday (in Game 4)."

The scores:

RAIN OR SHINE 93 — Conley 26, Chan 10, Belga 10, Lassiter 9, Ilescas 8, Yap 7, Ayaay 6, Salvador 5, Ilagan 4, Cruz 3, Quinahan 2, Ilustre 2, Ilustre 2, Ilustre

LET THE FLAME BURN BRIGHT! Invicta glows provided by Lacey, Daniel Mendelsohn holds the Olympic Flame inside St. Pancras International Railway Station on Day 69 of the London 200 Olympic Torch Relay on Thursday. REUTERS

Tiniest man in PH team bears heaviest burden

From page A1

Ed Picson.

"I can say he's ready for the Olympics," said Picson. He added that Barriga, a native of Pandan, Davao del Norte, had improved fast and follow boxers in Cardiff during his sparring sessions with fellow Olympic aspirants in the run-up to the Games.

In fact, Filipinos in Cardiff even so impressed with Barriga's performance in training that they have started calling him Little Dectron, as the Pacman Cuba Manny Pacquiao was himself a light flyweight in the early days of his storied boxing career.

BEST BET Pinoy alumni Mark Anthony Barriga in action against Hilarion Dennis of Indonesia during the 16th Sea Games in Palembang, Indonesia, in November last year. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Chances good

"His chances are good," Weliaves reported to former boxing chief Manny Lopez, now the Philippine delegation's chief of mission.

Velasco became wheezed before episodes. He himself won a bronze medal as a light flyweight in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, while his brother Mariano won the silver medal in the same division in Atlanta four years later.

Barriga's feat that quest on Tuesday.

US swim team's spoof video goes viral on the Web

LONDON—It's not all hard work and no play for the US swimming team at the London Olympics.

A light-hearted, spoof video filmed by the team during training has gone viral on the Internet, with tens of thousands of viewers, during to watch top names such as Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte and Missy Franklin dancing and lip-syncing to Mr. "Call Me Maybe" by Carly Rae Jepsen.

The video, billed by the team as an attempt to "blow off steam" in the run-up to the games, features swimmers dancing down the aisle of a plane, wearing arms around on a bus and even strutting their stuff under water.

Lochte, a favorite with Olympic swimming fans, smooches at the camera.

"This is one of the best routine I've had the opportunity to be a part of! We are having so much fun!" Franklin tweeted as she sent out a link to the video (http://bit.ly/MaybeNY).

"USA Swimming's 'Call Me Maybe' proves two things: 1. Swimmers are funny, 2. Taper makes you stir crazy," tweeted swimming journalist Mike Gustafson, referring to the redirection of swimmers' workloads just before a competition.

Other parodies of the music spoofed song include one from Harvard's baseball team, a women's college rowing team and even Senator Barack's Goals in Motion. Reuters

SNORKEL parkers underwater at Manila Ocean Park on Friday to show support for Filipino Olympians in London. ALEX BADLANI

Barriga, Caluag picked to end PH medal drought

By Ted S. Malonzo
Sports Editor

LONDON—The chief of mission of the 11-man Philippine delegation is basically looking at only two possible sources of Philippine medals at the London Olympics here.

Monsay Lopez, also the Philippine Olympic Committee vice chairperson, said they were just hoping Mark Barriga and BMX racing's Daniel Caluag to be two athletes who could end the country's medal drought in three Olympics.

"They have a chance and we are hoping that Lady Luck also smiles on them," said Lopez late Thursday night. "Barriga and Caluag are two gifted athletes who just could spring a surprise."

Barriga's first recital experience in competing in the flyweight division would not be known until late Friday night (Saturday morning). Boxing official Ed Picson said his ward would have a stronger chance of progressing into the later rounds if he does not draw any of the weight category's top fives, including defending Olympic champion Zhou Zuting of China.

Incidentally, it was Barriga's defeat to Zhou in an Olympic qualifier in Urumqi last year that landed the Filipino a berth in the Games. The international boxing federation, in a qualification quirk, put Barriga in the Olympics for losing to the tournament champion (Zhou).

No other Filipino boxer—man or woman—managed to nail an Olympic spot, with featherweight Charly Suarez getting shunted to qualifying by losing (to the silver in another controversial bout that rewarded the gold medalist at London bowls.

Caluag, the Filipino-American who migrated for from years to the United States No. 1 BMX rider, missed his spot in the Games by accumulating enough points in the international circuit. He will be handicapped, though, by his wife militancy with the race course.

Illustrated by a two-time US titlist in the province course in Chula Vista, California, Caluag went to the Netherlands for last-minute training. He will be the last Filipino athlete to check at the Olympic Village here.

"I believe Caluag knows what to expect from his rivals," said Lopez.

His biggest opponents will come from the British and US teams. The Americans won half of the gold medals at stake in cycling in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Over 100 athletes busted for using illegal drugs

LONDON—The crackdown on doping offenders in the run-up to the London Olympics has been a success, more caught more than a 100 athletes using performance-enhancing drugs in recent months, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge said on Friday.

Rogge said the IOC's efforts for a clean Olympics were bearing fruit.

On Athletics-day time track and field athletes were banned drugging bans by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) for doping violations.

Separately, women's 1,500 meters medal contender Mariem Alaoui Selsouli of Morocco and tennis's world number 200 Alexandra Cadantu Dinu (Dondoubinska) were confirmed to have tested positive this week before arriving in London.

"This is a good sign for the fight against doping," Rogge told reporters. "This is proof that the system is working and is effective."

Blood profile

The nine athletes, including leading heptathlete hopeful

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Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

Songs turn to screams at videoke bar

"GIGIWALang sasagot ("When's Sheriduhoo?)" A drunken customer of a videoke bar on Zea Road, Caloocan City, was heard challenging people to a fight before he allegedly ran amok and shot the bar's female owner dead before dawn Friday. The suspect, known only by the bar's employees as Jerome, fled after the shooting. The victim, Daisy Polgarcio of Pangasinan province, died before reaching the hospital. Previously, a resident of North Gate Executive Homes, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan province, had tried to calm down the suspect but ended up being shot in the forehead around 3:30 a.m. Friday, police said. **Julie M. Aurelio**

2nd grenade attack hits Philex office

By Nathaniel R. Meliron

ANTIMINING activists or disgruntled employees could be the brains behind the grenade attack that rocked the main office of Philex Mining Corp. in Pasig City in the wee hours of Friday, the police said.

It was the second explosion in two months that apparently targeted the company chaired by high-profile businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan and now considered the country's largest gold and copper producer.

No one was killed or injured in the 1 a.m. blast which left small cracks on the outer walls of the Philex office on Ortigas Street, Barangay Bagong Ilog, according to Pasig police chief, Senior Supt. Alfredo Calanza Jr.

At least three security guards—Jessy Empili, Allan Inglitorial, and Asuel Gayo—saw two motorcycle-riding men hurl a grenade at the sidewalk in front of the building, Calanza said.

Police recovered from the blast site a fragment of a grenade's safety lever and safety ring, along with some bits of shrapnel.

Calanza said that it was the second grenade-throwing incident aimed at Philex's headquarters this year. On June 3, a man also lobbed a grenade in front of the building. He was not hurt in the earlier explosion.

He said investigators were looking at two angles: "This may have been done by employees of the company who are frustrated over a labor dispute with the management, but we are not discounting the possibility that this was done by antimining activists."

"We condemn this criminal act and advise those responsible will be brought to justice," said Mike Toledo, Philex senior vice president for corporate affairs.

"We assure our employees, business partners and the general public that we are taking steps to ensure security. The incident is under control and it's business as usual," Toledo added, noting that the damage to the company's property was minimal.

Toledo said the company will employ additional security personnel, seek increased police presence in the area and install additional security equipment such as closed circuit television cameras.

He said the company still has no lead as to the suspects and the motive behind the explosion. "We have not received any call or communication claiming responsibility for the incident. We have not been subject to any form of threats."

The country's largest gold and copper producer earlier reported a 26-percent decline in its net earnings to Rs1 billion from Rs1.64 billion last year. *With a report from Amie S. Jose*

Pilot in 'shabu' bust unlicensed since Jan—CAAP

By Tina G. Santos and Michael Ramos

THE CIVIL Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) on Friday sought to clarify earlier pronouncements by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) over the recent arrest of a commercial pilot who allegedly sold methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" to an undercover agent.

CAAP maintained that Rodilyn Toledo, who was arrested by PDEA in Taguig City on July 19, was no longer on its roster of active pilots as of January.

"The report on Toledo has gone unreconfirmed as an pilot. The public may have apprehensions on travelling by air because of this," said Capt. Armando Recbuniaran, chief of the CAAP licensing department.

CAAP spokesperson Joy Sangerong said the agency's records showed that Toledo's Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL) had expired on Jan. 21, 2012, and that he was no longer flying any aircraft since.

Dr. Reily Bagalso, officer in charge of CAAP's Office of the Flight Surgeon and Medicine, also maintained that "we as CAAP conduct random drug testing on airline pilots, including cabin crew, more than the annual tests that the commercial airlines like PAL and Cebu Pacific initiate."

PDEA earlier said that Toledo, 35, a resident of Pasig City was arrested in an entrapment operation after selling over 9 grams of shabu to a posing buyer. PDEA Director General Iryo Gutierrez Jr. then said Toledo also reportedly supplied drugs to fellow pilots and foreign nationals.

Reached for comment yesterday, PDEA spokesperson Derrick Carreon said the agency had no intention of maligning the reputation of pilots or painting the local airline industry in a bad light.

Carreon said PDEA would defer to the findings of the CAAP about Toledo's professional background and his status as a commercial pilot.

"There is no quarrel between PDEA and CAAP officials. We respect their findings because they are the authority on this since they have the records," the PDEA official said.

"It was Toledo who represented himself as a pilot. That was also the information gathered by our agents," he added.

"We still support the efforts of the CAAP in making the skies safer for the public and in preventing the whole aviation industry," he said.

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DOST winning big vs dengue–except in Metro

By Doris Z. Fuzzlogan

INCIPIT in Metro Manila, the use of ovitrap (aedes/dengue trap) promulgated by the Department of Science and Technology has significantly reduced dengue cases across the country.

In select barangays nationwide where the DOST distributed the relatively cheap DL trap kits last year, the number of dengue cases dropped by 51 to 90 percent, compared to the same period in 2010.

"The OL trap system has reduced the transmission that may have resulted in reduced dengue cases," Dr Nona Almanzor, executive director of the DOST's Industrial Technology Development Institute, said in a news conference on Friday.

But the installation of OL traps in some households in select barangays in Metro Manila barely had an effect.

In the cities of Caloocan, Pasaybasyo, Malabon, Mandaluyong and San Juan, dengue cases went down by a mere 0.9 percent— from 4,154 to 3,761 cases from January to December last year when the DL traps were used—compared to the same period the previous year.

Almanzor said the OL trap—which is designed to collect the eggs of dengue-carrying mosquitoes—was only one of the tools used to reduce the population of Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, particularly the adult females which carry the deadly dengue hemorrhagic fever virus.

The OL trap kit consists of a black cup and a small strip of treated (shaped like a paper clip) for the Aedes aegypti mosquito to lay eggs on. The DOST said one household should have at least four traps that should be placed in dark corners to attract mosquitoes.

Almanzor said people obviously still failed to clean mosquito breeding sites like drains and used tires where water stagnates for long periods.

"People must also clean their surroundings. We have to educate the people to clean up," she said.

Before the resumption of classes in June, the DOST distributed one million OL trap kits to public elementary and high schools.

Dengue cases nationwide increased to 26 percent from Jan. 1 to July 14 this year compared to the same period last year. The number of deaths also rose to 328 from 293 during the period.

The Department of Health has recorded 71,897 cases from the start of the year to July 14, compared to 44,115 in the same period last year.

Most of the cases were recorded in Metro Manila with 11,476, followed by Calabarzon with 7,205 and Central Luzon with 7,044.

WHO, the distribution of OL traps, the DOST reported the highest reduction in dengue cases in Eastern Visayas, where cases in nine barangays were down by 94.4 percent.

Dengue cases in barangays in Western Visayas that used the DL traps went down by 86 percent; 85 percent in eight barangays in Caraga; and 81.2 percent in 15 barangays in Cordillera Administrative Region.

The DOST also reported that dengue cases were down by 70 percent in two barangays that piloted tested the OL traps in Puerto Princesa City by 70 percent; 69 percent in three barangays in Western Visayas; 50 percent in eight barangays in Southern Mindanao; and 50 percent in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

HELMETS MUST BE REGISTERED
A boy watches over his father's helmet as other motorists line up to get theirs registered at an office of the Department of Trade and Industry on Edsa in Diliman Cubao, Quezon City. The new requirement is supposed to help police in tracking down motorcycle-riding criminals. (MARIANNE BERMUDEZ)

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Rob-slay suspect shot dead inside police car

CLOSURE coincidently.

Hours after a high school student was robbed and killed in Manila, the surveyed suspect was shot to death in one of his police escort inside a patrol car and left them "no choice" but to shoot him dead, according to the Manila Police District.

Seventeen-year-old Jeoney Jay Dagli, a senior student at Ramon Magsaysay High School, was walking home at around 8:30 p.m. Thursday when he was allegedly attacked by Jonathan Going at the corner of Bonson and Bustos Streets in Sampaloc.

Dagli later died of multiple stab wounds in the hospital, said Senior Insp. Jonzilito de Dumpis, MPD homicide section chief.

About two hours after the robbery, Going, 34, reportedly a resident of Bustos Street, was arrested in an MPD operation after he was positively identified by witnesses.

The suspect and a three-man MPD team were on their way to the police station in Santa Cruz when Going allegedly bit one of the escorts, PO2 Joseph Viernes, with his elbow and tried to grab the officer's gun, De Dumpis said.

Going used Viernes' stun gun in the back seat of an MPD patrol car. With them in the vehicle were PO2 Ferwen Reyes Malacad and the designated driver, PO2 Jonellan Calibara.

De Dumpis said Malacad was forced to shoot Going as close range after "a scuffle ensued in the front seat" wherein Going managed to take control of the firearm, pointing the barrel of the police asset at Dali."

Malacad, who was in the front passenger seat, "had no choice but to fire at Going," he surmised. "Kasi, nag-I was a suspect and a suspect [sic] in this case, sarado-dar shooter."

Nancy C. Carvajal

Abusive husband and wife

MAKATI City Assistant Prosecutor Emmanuel D. Medina's car, which was driven by his 24-year-old son Evan Ephraim, figured in a minor traffic accident with another car Monday. Medina's daughter, Ma. Mindanao City's one months ago.

Medina's car bumped the left rear portion of the other car, a Mercedes Benz driven by Reb Ramos.

Photographs shown in this news indicate that Evan Ephraim was at fault since he hit Ramos' car from behind.

But you know what?

Ramos has been charged with damage to property through reckless imprudence in the Mandaluyong City Prosecutor's Office!

It's not his first time that the elder Medina used his influence over his colleagues in Mandaluyong City.

His wife is Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court Judge Antonietta Medina.

It's his not any cause of power, I don't know what to.

* * *

A movie producer has offered

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

Gen. Ping Lacson P7 million for the rights to a movie to be made about him when he was a fugitive from justice.

Lacson ... apparently learning, said the film would be released in November or December.

What's there to be proud of being a fugitive from justice, especially when it appears you're running away from a false murder charge?

Being accused of involvement in the murder of publicist Bubby Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, is nothing to crow about.

Only criminal minds or those with criminal tendencies will probably watch the movie about Lacson's life on the run.

* * *

By the way, a Palace insider told me President Noy has changed his mind about appointing Lacson as interior secretary (for the incumbent, Jesse Robredo).

It's good the President has come to his senses.

Why would he appoint somebody who was once a fugitive from justice to a position that deals with crime and criminals?

* * *

Some quarters are questioning the results of the test on Bar-Oliveros 17 19 steel plated which passed the durability test conducted by the Philippine National Police recently.

There are reports that a congressman, who doesn't know anything about firearms, will seek a congressional inquiry.

The inquiry will not go anywhere. Before it can even start, it is easy to see that the complainants are nothing but instances of sour grapping.

METROBRIEFS

Blood drops from ceiling lead to IT teacher's corpse

BLOOD seeping through her ceiling led the occupant of an apartment in Caloocan City to the lifeless body of Miss Juhi Pino, an information technology teacher, who lived one floor above. Ayon kanya Nang told police that she saw blood dripping from the ceiling of her unit on the way about to the neighbor early yesterday morning. While another neighbor and a bystander, Nang went upstairs to investigate. They found the victim sprawled on the floor, lying in a pool of blood. Investigators said the victim died of a single gunshot wound to his left temple. Police found an improvised shotgun in the apartment. Yesterday morning, residents of Barangay Northeast Boulevard South in Bayanihan City also found the body of a man lying on a sidewalk near the city's border close to Tanong in Bilanda. A police report said the victim, who was in his late 20s, could have died of strangulation, an abuse by murder in his hand.

Antonio F. Molina

CHR prober ambushed after spat with trike driver

A COMMISSION on Human Rights investigator on his way home survived an ambush by a lone gunman Thursday night in Quezon City, Senator Aleng, 40, was driving his car when he was allegedly ambushed by Jomin Escalante, 34, a tricycle driver, at the corner of Mo. Domingo and Madison Streets at around 8:30 p.m. Aleng was about to make a turn when Escalante fired shots at the passing vehicle, hitting the victim in different parts of his body. The victim is now confined at the Ria Tarrazo General Hospital. Escalante was taken in custody following an eyewitness. Aleng's wife Benita told the police that her husband and Escalante had filed oral defamation charges against each other earlier following an argument over a neighbor. Jomina said Escalante had endangered a guerilla and in determine if he's the gunman.

Julie M. Aurelio

Makati fires: 'One for breakfast, one for lunch'

"WE TOOK one for breakfast and the other for lunch." Makati City Bureau chief Ricardo Pendoy said as he tried to make light of the two fires that killed his two-baby-boy on Friday. The first blaze razed 10 houses on a 0.5-hectare area between Avenue, Barangay East Rembo, while the other hit a four-story apartment in Barangay Valenzuela. The 0-0 fire started at 7:27 a.m. and required firefighters to climb a hill before putting the situation under control 45 minutes later. A resident suffered minor burns while another fainted at the sight of the burning neighborhood, Pendoyo said. Later at 7:14 p.m., another fire started on the fourth floor of an apartment owned by Cesario Pineda at the corner of Reyanne Garcia and Concepcion Streets, Barangay Valenzuela. No one was hurt in the second fire that damaged over 10 rooms.

Alvin Calleja

Study: Strong storms threaten US ozone layer

STRONG SUMMER storms that pump water high into the upper atmosphere pose a threat to the protective ozone layer over the United States, researchers said on Thursday, adding that the risk of damage may increase as the climate warms.

In a study published online by the journal Science, Harvard University scientists reported that some storms send water vapor well into the stratosphere — which is normally drier than a desert — and showed how such storms could rapidly set off ozone-destroying reactions with chemicals that remain in the atmosphere from CFCs, the once-banned refrigerant gases.

Ozone helps shield people, animals and crops from damaging ultraviolet rays from the sun. Much of the concern about the ozone layer has focused on Antarctica, where a seasonal hole, or thinning, has been seen for two decades, and the Arctic, where a hole was observed last year. But those regions have almost no population.

A thinning of the ozone layer over the United States during summers could mean an increase in ultraviolet exposure for millions of people and a rise in the incidence of skin cancer, the researchers said.

"This problem now is of direct concern to me," said James G. Anderson, an atmospheric scientist and the lead author of the study. "I never would have suspected this."

The findings were based on aerial missions, he and other experts said, but direct measurements of the impact of water vapor on ozone chemistry are lacking, and much more research is needed.

While there is conclusive evidence that strong storms have seen water vapor as high as 19 kilometers—through a process called convective injection—and while climate scientists say one effect of global warming is an increase in the intensity and frequency of storms, it is not yet clear if the number of such injections events will rise.

"Nobody understands why this convection can penetrate so deeply as it does," said Anderson, who has studied the atmosphere for four decades.

"It's the union between ozone loss and global change that is really at the heart of this," he said, adding that for years he and other scientists had always been sure to ozone chemistry are lacking, and much more research is needed.

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"It's the union between ozone loss and global change that is really at the heart of this," he said, adding that for years he and other scientists had always been sure to assemble to keep the two concepts separate. "Now they're intimately connected."

Mario J. Molina, a consultant of a Nobel Prize for research in the 1970s that uncovered the link between CFCs and damage to the ozone layer, said the study added "one more worry to the changes that society's making to the chemical composition of the atmosphere." Molina, who was not involved in the study, said the research was "significant ozone depletion at latitudes where there is a lot of population, in contrast to over the poles."

The study, which was financed by the Nasa, focused on the United States because that is where the data were collected. But the researchers pointed out that similar conditions could exist at other middle-latitude regions.

Ralph J. Cicerone, an atmospheric scientist and the president of the National Academy of Sciences, who reviewed the study for Science, also called for more research. "One of the really solid parts of this paper is that they've taken the chemistry that we know from other atmospheric experiments and lab experiments and put that in the picture," he said. "The thing to do is to find what new measurements would measure and whether there is any impact around it."

"The connection with future climate is the most important issue," Cicerone said.

Large thunderstorms of the type that occur from the Rockies to the East Coast and over the Atlantic Ocean produce updrafts, as warm moist air rises before expansion and condenses, releasing more heat. In most cases, the updrafts stop at a boundary layer between the lower atmosphere and the stratosphere called the tropopause, often producing flat-topped clouds that resemble anvils. But if there is enough energy in a storm, the updraft can continue on its own momentum, pushing through the tropopause and entering the stratosphere, said Wesley Ryan, an atmospheric scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

When Anderson produced data about five years ago clearly showing these strong injections of water vapor, "I didn't believe it at first," Anderson said. "But we've come to the point that the evidence is pretty strong that we do get them." (New York Times News Service)

IN LAUNCH 9, 2003 photo, a firefighter runs through the blast site after a garbage truck exploded near a hotel used by western newsworkers in central Baghdad, Iraq. AP

Siberian village shaken by gruesome mystery

By Ellen Barry

LYOVSHA, Russia—A grim little Siberian mystery began when a fisherman from this raining village tramped through the woods to the family cabin and found it reeking of something he could barely wrap his mind around.

Scattered at his feet and spilling out of industrial-size barrels were 268 tiny bodies, the macerated remains of cooked fetuses, many bearing a faint resemblance to human children. In shame, the fisherman made his way back to the village and called the police.

It was not the first such call they had received from Lyovsha, a village that made lumber-boilers and, ostensibly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the copper mine that employed most of its male population closed. Five years ago, a dog roaming around in the woods discovered the decomposing bodies of 11 human baby girls in a pump on I-3, abandoned from the nearby city of Nizhny Tagil by a gang of local men aiming to have them turn prostitutes.

But as disturbing as the body count was, what was especially troubling was how little the police seemed to care. Investigators dawdled for months for those women, some say for years—and more human fetuses in the riptide of a collapsing industrial economy.

Since the police were led to the site of the abandoned fetuses on Monday, the authorities have launched a flurry of activity, with providence of the grim discovery.

A special commission announced that the fetuses had been donated to the Ural Medical Academy for research purposes.

Officials said the last pregnancies were 22–26 weeks old, suggesting that they date to 12 months from the abortion bans, and have not excluded the possibility that they were born prematurely.

But with many questions still unanswered, the discovery has prompted a new round of soul-searching—especially from the Russian Orthodox Church, which is in the midst of a campaign to end abortion. A top official in the Church called it "evidence of the degradation of our society" and said Russia will never replenish its population if it keeps "treating unborn children like garbage."

But it was hard to find much reaction at all in Lyovsha, where an 11 a.m. visit found army dogs, tumbledown houses, and a number of people who were already drunk.

"There is no future here," said Alexander Yevstifeev, 50, whose son had told the police on the dumped fetuses. "We used to have 18,000 people—now there are 6,000 of us. Half of us are losers. And every day one of us dies."

Though there is no direct connection between the two gruesome finds, both point to the despair that set into the small towns of Russia's rust belt after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Many have immediately assumed that the fetuses discovered on Sunday were being used in human trafficking, possibly to provide raw material for cosmetic or medical procedures.

Vadim Dubichev, an adviser to the region's governor, said he was powerfully reminded of the young women found in 2007.

"In life, sometimes you encounter real scenes that remind you of what is going on behind the scenes, the actual processes," Dubichev told the Ekho Moskvy radio station. "That story immediately made me think about prostitution. It's the same in this case." Human conscientiousness tries not to focus on these awful problems. You never think something like this will happen to you. But when it does, it is embarrassed with the dogcatcher: 'Glory to labor! Glory to miners!' Just the same as trapped up with brownish water and, so Yevstifeev said recently, "There is no need for people here anymore."

A dwindling population lives off government pensions paid to the elderly, which is enough to supply these with cheap fortified wine.

Yevstifeev's son, Sergei Yevstifeev, 20, emerged from a two hour ice fish midmorning, squinting in the sunshine. He lit a cigarette and said the story: On Sunday night, his friend Vadim had called to tell him about the fetuses, saying that he had found "small children." Sergei took the police there the next day. He added: It's "a horror."

"Most likely it was done for money," he said. "After the prosecutors, it's hard to say private sex."

Zahra M. Muzina, 51, a salesperson, screwed up her face when asked about it.

"It was just negligence," she said. "Just dirty disgusting apparent. "Why not give them to the fire, or the earth?"

A neighbor passing by shook her head. "Leaving them out for the birds or the animals to eat," she said.

Both women rejected the idea that, as a result, abortions needed to be curtailed, saying that young women in the area do not have the resources to raise large families.

Virtually every woman approached nearby agreed—including Radmila Ivanova, 70, who believes that abortion is a grave sin. Like many Soviet women, she had one after marrying two children; only after Communism fell, and she became a devout Christian, did she realize that "it was a sin—a mortal sin."

"It was too late," said Grilkova, a retired nurse who works in a church in nearby Sevyansk. "I didn't think about the consequences, which I have now acknowledged. May God forgive me."

But the people around her have also said, are so damaged by unemployment and addiction that they are not ready for an abortion ban, and that they will not be for at least two or three generations.

"They are already degraded," she said quietly. "They cannot breed." New York Times News Service

Iraq 'rebuilders' died by the hundreds

WASHINGTON—In the first nearly of its kind, a US investigative agency has calculated that at least 719 people, nearly half of them Americans, were killed working on projects to rebuild Iraq following the US invasion in 2003.

The toll represents an aspect of the Iraq war that is rarely brought to public attention, overshadowed by the much higher number killed in combat as well as the billions of taxpayer dollars squandered on reconstruction.

There is no confirmed total number of Iraqi war deaths. The US military lost 4,488 in Iraq, and at least 4,000 more have died since the number of Iraq deaths has not been established but is thought to exceed 100,000.

Navy Cmdr. Bruce G. Wolfe was among the 719. He was not fighting the insurgency, but it was fighting him.

He was among the army of lawyers, engineers, contractors and others who paid a heavy price trying to put a broken Iraq and its shattered economy back together. Three deaths were recorded among the war's contract fatalities, but until now no one has carried out the "extraordinary" deaths as a subset of the overall casualty list.

Wolfe was killed on May 23, 2006, in a roadside bombing while returning to Baghdad after inspecting a water-wastewater treatment plant under construction near Hillah in Iraq's western province of Anbar. The $2.65-million project endured long delays and large cost overruns, and a US federal audit in late 2011 concluded that it never functioned properly.

Wolfe's wife, Cindi, said in a telephone interview last week that he knew the dangers of working in Iraq but made a point of not talking about security or any close calls that he might have had to violent attacks' presence.

"He was careful not to worry us with information like that," she said. AP

Earnings letdown: Facebook shares value plummets

SAN FRANCISCO—Unhappy with Facebook's first financial report as a public company on Thursday, investors fled the stock in droves even as Mark Zuckerberg, the company's chief executive, extolled its growth prospects in industry analysts.

Facebook's stock lost 10 percent of its value on Thursday. The first three days during regular trading largely because of the poor results posted by Zynga, the social game company that uses Facebook as a platform.

But the stock continued its plummet in after-hours trading after Facebook announced its own numbers, dipping below $30, a record low. Since going public two months ago at $38 a share, Facebook shares have lost 37 percent of their value.

Zuckerberg has rarely spoken publicly about the company, by tradition in his three months since its initial public offering. But until his comments said on Thursday about their plans to make money by advertising to Facebook users seemed to reassure investors.

The financial report for the company's second quarter did contain some good news. Revenue rose up 32 percent, beating analysts' predictions. But profits were not impressive, and the total number of users inched up only slowly.

While the unenthusiastic hype around the company's IPO, some investors believe most upside would have already realized—higher revenues, higher earnings," said Jordan Rohan, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets. New York Times Service

In Singapore, no warm hugs for Chinese newcomers

By Andrew Jacobs

SINGAPORE—It was bad enough that Ms Chi runs driving well above the speed limit on a downtown boulevard when he blows through a red light and nearly hits a taxi, hitting its two occupants and himself. It didn't help, either, that he was at the wheel of a $1.4-million ferrari that early morning in May, or that the woman in the passenger seat was not his wife.

But what really set off a wave of outrage across this normally decorous island state is the fact that Ms. a 31-year-old financial investor, carried a Chinese passport, having arrived in Singapore just years earlier.

The incidents, captured by the dashboard camera of another taxi, has unleashed long-simmering anger against the surge of new arrivals from China, part of a government-engineered immigration push that has almost doubled Singapore's population to 5.2 million since 1990. About one million of those newcomers arrived in the past decade, drawn by financial incentives and a liberal visa policy aimed at counteracting Singapore's famously low birthrate.

Tensions over immigration have driven many success, but what makes the clash here particularly striking is that most of Singapore's population was already ethnic Chinese; many of them descendants of earlier generations of Chinese immigrants. The grandma is not lost on Mr. Ho Tzu, the artistic director of a community theater company that takes on thorny social issues.

"Mainlanders may look like us, but they aren't like us," said Ho, who is of mixed Malay-Chinese descent and does not speak Mandarin. "Singaporeans look down on mainlanders as country bumpkins, and they look down on us because we can't speak proper Chinese."

Three days, mainland Chinese got blamed for driving up real-estate prices, flooding the low job and dragging the roads with Baby Boomers sports cars. Cell phone plans are cheaper than they used Mandarin to order their beloved Bopi.C (coffee sweetened with evaporated milk). True or not, tales of Chinese women stealing away married men have become legion.

"Singaporeans make up anecdotes and they don't like mainlanders," said Jolovan Wham, executive of an organization that helps foreign laborers, many of whom face exploitive work conditions. "The amount of xenophobia we're seeing is just appalling."

In the days after the accident, social media have been awash in commentary that likened mainlanders like Ms. to spending Singapore's gracious, well-mannered ways. Bloggers called him "spoiled and corrupt," wrongly identified him as the son of a powerful Beijing official and suggested the police preserve him from scrutiny. Investigators found of a mock Facebook page, since removed, that bolstered with up by investors.

"Good riddance and enjoy hell you piece of mainland trash," read one of the many postings.

Singapore, which has long relied on foreign labor to power its economy, has in moments ethnic and religious harmony in a multicultural society, has become alarmed by the unrest, much of it coming from middle-class Singaporeans. In a recent speech, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean defended the government's immigration policies, saying foreign workers—both educated and unskilled—were indispensable to sustain balance a rapidly aging population. AP/NYT

BB2 gets positive credit ratings

The proposed issuance of the second series of Bahay Bonds (Bahay Bonds 2 or BB2) by the state-run National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) got positive ratings from the Philippine Rating Services Corporation (Philratings).

In a press statement, Philratings announced that "Bahay Bonds 2 securitization issue will be getting a conditional credit rating of PRS Aa for both the PhP900.0-million Class A Senior PRS6A and the PhP135.00 Class B Senior Notes. A conditional credit rating of PRS Baa, on the other hand, was given to the PhP148 million Class C Subordinated Notes."

Obligations rated PRS Aa are of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk. Obligations rated PRS Baa exhibit adequate protection parameters.

Bahay Bonds 2 shall be the first ever Retail Housing Asset Backed Securities in the country. "The loans in the asset pool are highly seasoned and are considered as low delinquent accounts," said the Philratings.

The favorable ratings also reflect NHMFC's strong credit enhancement and liquidity facilities which provide adequate protection against payment delinquency and the moderate concerns on asset pool performance given the material amount of restructured loans included in the portfolio.

"This is further boosted by the relatively positive economic outlook for the Philippines," Philratings said.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Wife of disgraced China Politburo member charged with murder

BEIJING—China will try Gu Kailai, the wife of ousted Politburo member Bo Xilai, on charges of murdering a British man, state media said on Thursday in the latest turn in a scandal that has rocked the government in Beijing and could bring Gu the death penalty.

The sensational dismissal of Bo has already shaken the Communist Party's ranking system ahead of a decade succession, and now Gu and family aide Zhang Xiaojun will be prosecuted for allegedly poisoning businessman Neil Heywood last year over "conflict of economic interests," the official Xinhua news agency said.

"The facts of the two deliberate crimes are clear, and the evidence is irrefutable and substantial," said the Xinhua report after considering the indictment. "Therefore, the two defendants should be charged with intentional homicide."

Gu and Zhang will face trial in Hefei, a city in eastern China, far from Chongqing, the sprawling municipality in the southwest where Bo made his political base and where Heywood died in a hillside hotel in November.

Bo has not been named as a suspect in the murder case, but he is separately under investigation by party authorities and could also face trial at a later date.

Political observers have said a failure to forge a unified stance on handling the divisive Bo case could affect the Communist Party's decision-making over the leadership changes that will be decided at the upcoming congress.

Bo, the 63-year-old party chief of Chongqing before his dismissal, was widely seen as pushing for a spot in that new leadership—and felled by the scandal brought to light by his former police chief, Wang Lijun.

Acting as the case is, the party congress will come pressed quite smoothly," said Joseph Fewsmith, a professor of Chinese politics at Boston University.

"The party has handled this case as one of one person break-

Bo Xilai (right) and wife Gu Kailai

ing the law. The ideological issues have been pushed to the side, although that doesn't mean they're not there."

Motives did not give a date for the trial, but Shen Chiping, a lawyer who had been employed by Gu's family, told Reuters that his trial was likely to start on Aug. 7 or 8. China's party-run courts rarely find in favor of defendants, and Gu and Zhang could face the death penalty.

In London, the British Foreign Office responded to news of the indictment by saying it was glad the investigation was continuing.

"The details of the ongoing investigation are a matter for the Chinese authorities," it added in a statement.

"However, we are glad to see that the Chinese authorities are continuing with the investigation into the death of Neil Heywood. We are dedicated to seeking justice for him and his family and we will be following developments closely," it added.

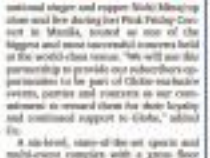
The indictment comes around a week after Frenchman Patrick Henri Devillers, 52, flew from Cambodia to China to serve as a witness in the case. Devillers was detained last month in Cambodia at the behest of Beijing because of his suspected business links to Gu.

He and his wife have had no chance publicly to address the accusations against them since Bo was ousted from his Chongqing post in March. Reuters

Philippines' AirAsia rolls out Piso Fare Promo

New affordable fares at only one peso have fun be hotel and international destinations including Ho Trees survey base. Book airport to Australia only at

Globe seals P80-million merchandising deal with SM Mall of Asia Arena



US fears Syria preparing for massacre in Aleppo

AMMAN/BEIRUT—The United States said it feared a massacre in Aleppo after President Bashar al-Assad's forces launched ground and air bombardments in preparation for a major onslaught against rebels in Syria's commercial capital.

Insurgents targeted army roadblocks and security installations, while both sides avoiding close-quarters warfare in the northern city of 2.5 million people, Syria's biggest urban center.

The UN-Arab peacemaker said credible reports of tank columns moving on Aleppo, along with air strikes by helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, represented a serious escalation of Assad's efforts to crush a rebellion that began 16 months ago.

"This is the concern: that we will see a massacre in Aleppo, and that's what the regime appears to be lining up for," state department spokesperson Victoria Nuland said.

Troops stationed on the outskirts of the city unleashed barrages of heavy-caliber mortar rounds on the western neighborhoods of Salaldin, al-Sukkari and al-Fardos, while Russian-built Mi-25 helicopter gunships struck al-Sukkari to the east with rockets, opposition activists in the city said.

The heavy fighting around Aleppo followed an audacious bomb attack that killed four of Assad's closest lieutenants in Damascus on July 18 and led some analysts to speculate that the government's grip was slipping.

In the first reports of casualty on Friday, a team of about 60 rescuing a wall-bound while prayers inside were killed near a park in Salaheddine. Its body was placed in a morgue pending identification.

Thirty-four people were killed in and around Aleppo on Thursday, according to opposition activists.

"The rebels have so far been nimble, and civilians have mostly been the victims of the bombardment," said activist Abu Muhammad al-Halabi, speaking by phone from the city.

"There is lots of internal displacement, and schools have been turned to makeshift shelters that are packed. One shell hitting a school will result in a catastrophe," he said.

"The regime is massing troops and tanks at the entrances of Aleppo, but it seems it is for now content with bombarding the city, with the rebels constantly on the move."

Majed al-Nour, another activist, said rebels attacked a security outpost in the neighborhood of Bustan al-Asa, which is close to the Aleppo city center, on Thursday.

"The rebels are present in the east and west of the city and have a foothold in several of the center. The regime forces control the entrances of Aleppo and the main thoroughfares and commercial streets and are bombarding the residential districts that fell into rebel hands," he said.

Near said tens of thousands of people had fled Aleppo to nearby northern rural regions ahead of the battle. Most of the refugees Army has withdrawn its troops needed to focus on urban areas where relatively lightly armed rebels have hindered them.

With UN Security Council resolutions for sanctions against Syria vetoed by Russia and China for a third time last week, the United States has said it is stepping up assistance to Syria's fractured opposition, although it remains limited to nonlethal supplies such as communications gear and medical equipment.

Reuters has learned that the White House has crafted a presidential directive, called a "finding," that would authorize greater covert assistance for the rebels, while still stopping short of arming them. Reuters

SYRIAN rebels man a checkpoint in Aleppo on July 28. A commercial hub and home to 2.5 million people, Syria's second city Aleppo has become a new front in the country's uprising.

Aleppo crucial to both regime and rebels

BEIRUT—The battle between rebels and regime for Syria's second city Aleppo is a crucial fight that could determine the trajectory of the more than 16-month uprising against President Bashar al-Assad, experts say.

Troops and rebel fighters are massing in and around the city and Al-Watan newspaper, which is close to the regime, pulled no punches describing the fighting in the northern commercial hub.

"Aleppo, the mother of all battles," it declared, reporting an army diplomatic source had said. "Aleppo will be the last battle waged by the Syrian army to crush the terrorists, and after that Syria will emerge from the crisis."

"It's an enormously important battle for the two sides," said Ignace Leverrier, a former diplomat and author of the blog "An Eye on Syria."

"For the regime, the city represents an important center because it's a commercial town where it has many allies, particularly in the merchant class."

For the rebels, Aleppo is "the key to northern Syria and to the possibility of enacting a safe zone," he added, saying rebels could try to "replicate in a way the Libya model, with Benghazi."

The eastern city of Benghazi, which fell early in the uprising against Moammar Gadhafi, became a base for rebels as they battled to overthrow the Libyan regime.

In particular, Leverrier said, Aleppo could provide refuge for the families of deserting soldiers.

"There are many soldiers who seem to desert but haven't been able to because they are afraid of reprisals against their families," he said.

Riad Kahwaji, director of the Institute for Near East and Gulf Military Analysis, called Aleppo "vital" for both sides.

He also raised the prospect of a rebel "safe zone" with Aleppo at its heart.

"If you have Aleppo then virtually you have Idlib," he said of the region just southwest of Aleppo, much of which has been claimed by the rebels.

"So you're going to have all that territory becoming a safe zone for the rebels, from where they will be able to organize, train, get all the arms needed for a major onslaught on the regime forces."

The regime recognizes the danger of a potential rebel stronghold, Kahwaji said, and will battle fiercely to prevent it.

"Aleppo remains a center of gravity" he said. "Its collapse will signal a strong blow to the regime and it will also testify to the growing strength of the revolution in Syria."

Suhnaz Shaikh, director of the Beirut-based Institute's Doha Center, said the rebels had already dealt the regime a serious blow by evicting it from Idlib.

"It's done a huge amount of damage to the regime," he said. "It's undeniable that this would have been the case two or three weeks ago."

He said the regime would "certainly" deploy air power in the battle in a bid to deny the rebels a stronghold base.

"I do expect the regime to be using great force, and unfortunately all its arsenal it's ready to," he said.

"If Aleppo is shrouded a few days like Benghazi was, then we will be moving toward an end game. But I think there's still a long battle ahead."

Home to 2.5 million people, Aleppo had been largely excluded from violence, but became a new front in the fighting after the regime redeployed forces to Damascus in a bid to regain rebel-held districts in the capital. AFP

Editor Teddyvic B. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dichoso

SPORTS

FIREWORKS explode over the Olympic Stadium during a rehearsal for the opening ceremony on the 2012 London Olympics in London. The ceremony takes place Friday night.

Javier faces tough climb

PH archer battles 10th-ranked American in knockout stage

By Ted S. Melendres

LONDON—Seemingly emboldened by seven specialized training and lessons learned from his previous Games stint, archer Mark Javier shot an satisfactory classification score Friday but left himself a mountain to climb at the London Olympics here.

The world No. 127-ranked Javier scored 649 points in the 70-meter men's classification round and ranked 59th among a full field of 64 entries from 48 nations in the two-staged competition dominated by the powerful South Koreans at Lord's Cricket Ground.

The 31-year-old Javier is scheduled to meet the 10th-ranked Jillson Brady of the United States in the first round of the knockout stage Monday. The American champion shot the third best score in the second half of the 72-arrow course to finish ninth (659).

Javier's measly 326-323 halves paled in comparison to the 339-330-661 of Crispin Duenas, the crack Canadian of Filipino lineage, who ranked a lofty eighth and set up a first-round duel with Egypt's No. 57-ranked Ahmed El-Sisay (644).

The 36-year-old Duenas, who was born in Toronto to Filipino parents from Bulakan and Manila, more than lived up to his world No. 20 ranking by running just five points but personal best of 661.

"The Korean are better than us," said Duenas, "but they are also human and can be beaten."

The only other Filipino archer in the country's 11-athlete delegation, Rachelle Anne [illegible]

The New Nike LunarGlide+ Takes the Everyday Run to an Elite Level

Lunarlon Dynamic Support system and reinvented Nike Flywire technology offer cutting-edge performance on a glove-like fit.

This summer when the greatest athletes in the world compete for career-defining victories, runners everywhere can hit the streets and log miles in the exclusive, gear-those athletes inspired. There is incredible love in the all-new fourth generation of the Nike LunarGlide+, featuring reinvented Nike Flywire technology and the innovative Dynamic Support cushioning system+, and weighing in lighter than the previous version.

Whether at record breaking speeds or on a relaxing morning run, it is paramount. Sprinters and middle distance runners this summer will race in the Nike Zoom Superfly R4 and Nike Zoom Victory Elite, respectively, both with revolutionary Nike Flywire - a technology also utilized in the new Nike LunarGlide+. The dynamic cables move with the foot, offering support and comfort while minimizing weight and bulk. And since it wraps under the arch and loops into the laces, Flywire technology is customizable for an adaptive, glove-like fit that helps eliminate the gaps of a traditional upper.

The LunarGlide+ is really the best of both worlds. You've got amazing fit and support in an understated style with the super responsive Lunarlon cushioning.

Nick Williams, Sr. Footwear Designer for Nike Running

In the midsole, Lunarlon foam sits on the Dynamic Support platform and provides super plush, responsive cushioning. Lunarlon - the result of collaboration between Nike designers and the Nike Sport Research Lab - was first introduced on the global stage four years ago as the midsole cushioning system in the Nike LunarRacer+ and Nike LunarTempo+ running shoes.

- Flywire technology for a dynamic, glove-like fit that helps eliminate the gaps of a traditional upper
- Lunarlon Dynamic Support system provides soft, responsive cushioning
- Lightweight Nike LunarEclipse+ 3

Nike LunarGlide+ Collection

The Nike LunarGlide's Dynamic Support system is a two-part midsole. Strategically placed to provide superior stability and cushioning. Opposing wedges of foam, Lunarlon and Flywire cables team to move the runner from soft to stable as the heel lands and the foot flexes down. The innovative system provides a gradual transition and a smooth ride for a variety of gaits.

Nike LunarGlide+ 3 designers focused on fit, support and stability in the upper material as well. The floating heel clip has become a staple of the Nike LunarGlide. It wraps. Attached to the Flywire laces runners the clip moves with the foot to help with the heel rolling inward or outward.

Large expanses of single-layer engineered mesh provide ventilation and support where runners need it and give the shoe a personality smooth look. Designers also obsessed over sole and the Nike LunarEclipse+ sleek look helps ensure energy-efficient speed too.

Since the LunarGlide+ is Nike+ enabled, runners will also be able to track, compare and share their runs through nikeplus.com, the world's largest running community with 6 million members.

SRP: ₱5,795

Flawless 66 rewards Pucay with Iloilo crown

ILOILO— Mars Pucay broke a one-year spell on the ICTSI Philippine Golf Tour yesterday, out-gunning Miguel Tabuena with a bogey-free 66 for a one-stroke victory to take P1 million ICTSI Iloilo Golf Challenge here.

With third-round co-leaders Angelo Que, Ethan Imamura and Peter Villafuer backsliding with multi-over scores, Pucay and Tabuena provided the thrills before the eventual winner produced his solitary ball birdie on No. 14.

Pucay, who last won two years ago in the Subic Bay Invitational, finished with a seven-under 205 on the par-70 Sta. Barbara layout and pocketed the top P200,000 prize in the 54-hole tournament organized by Filipinas Golf Tournaments Inc.

The 17-year-old Tabuena, already the winner of two of the first seven legs on the circuit sponsored by ICTSI, settled for pars in the last three holes and matched Pucay's 66 to wind up at 206 worth P120,000.

Jared Abalo and 06'06 Tournament Tony Lascuña also fired 66s and secured up-and-in third at 207. They bathed the semifinal prize of P115,000.

Que dropped three strokes in the last four holes and shot a 70 and tumbled to joint fifth with Jay Bayron, who carded a 68, at 208.

Second, who led the first round with a 65, remained in the title hunt with a 34 on the front nine then bogeyed four times coming home for a 72 and a 209 total.

Villabar, who fired a 67 to join a three-way tie for the lead Thursday dropped out of contention early with a 41 and ended up with a 75 to fall to joint 11th at 213.

Pagsanjan rallied with a second round 65, and the reigning Asian Tour No. 1 fired a 68 for joint 16th with Clyde Mondilla, who had a 71, and Reve Manoy, who made a 72, at 209.

"The running point was my birdie putt on No. 14," said Pucay, who took the lead for good after Tabuena drove level following a three-for-the-lunge from No. 13.

Arnold Villacencio came out of nowhere with a tournament-best seven-under 63 in salvage joint seventh with Mark Fernando, who shot a 69, at 207. Villacencio started at joint 39th but moved up by birdying the first three holes then zoomed up a rubbing four-birdie stretch from No. 13 for that 63.

The event was hosted by Iloilo Golf Country Club, Metro Davao Golf Club, Manila Golf Club, Mimosa Golf Club, Forest Hills Golf Club, Inc., Greenhaven 691, Wildcat and member-golfers Hubs, Schools Golf League Golf, Hubs 21, Pinoy-golfer.com and Inquirer.

PUCAY

Stags seek tie for lead, battle Chiefs today

By Cedrik F. Tupas

SAN SEBASTIAN shoots for a share of the lead today when it clashes with Arellano U in the fifth NCAA basketball tournament at Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Stags got to their fifth victory to six outings in the 6 p.m. duel with the Chiefs, who are coming off a 72-60 overtime defeat to the St. Benilde Blazers.

"We're still a work in progress," said Stags coach Egay Robinson, whose wards bowed to the cellar-dwellers Lyceum last Wednesday after crushing erstwhile conqueror Jose Rizal U.

Perpetual Help, nursing fourth with a 5-1 card, and struggling Emilio Aguinaldo College collide in the first game at 4 p.m.

The Altas, who outlasted the Mapua Cardinals, 94-88, in overtime last Thursday, are headed to still pass the Generals, who showed plenty of flight before yielding to Letran, 62-61, last Wednesday.

San Sebastian will join its hopes on the trio of Calvin Abueva, Ian Sangalang, and Ronald Pascual, who hauled a season-high eight triples against Lyceum.

The Chiefs' chances will depend on the performances of James Sinamban, Rocky Acidre and Virgil Polistico, who sent the game against St. Benilde to overtime with a clutch triple with three seconds remaining in regulation.

Perpetual Help coach Aric del Rosario said the Altas should not look past the Generals despite their losing record.

"Some pegase Arellano when they play against us cese," said del Rosario. "We cannot relax."

The Altas are a rejuvenated bunch this season with sophomore Jiel Thompson and senior Joe Nalos flashing improved games.

In the win against Mapua, George Allen also provided a boost with 19 points in his first start this season, while Thompson dished out another all-around game of 23 points, 10 assists, five rebounds and four steals.

The Generals, on a five-game slide, can take heart in their performances against the Knights, where they almost rallied from 13 points down in the last five minutes.

Nesbit Happi has been a bright spot for the Generals, averaging 10 points and 14 rebounds.

PERPET LOSE Tyrbian Green (right, pic) is surrounded by Calvin Abueva and Jason Perkins of San Sebastian. The two teams compete again tomorrow. AUGUST DELOS SANTOS

PFF invites Guam XI to 4-nation tournament

By Cedrik F. Tupas

GUAM has been invited to complete the cast to the four-nation Bonifacio Memorial Cup set in Binondo City that will be last part of the preparation of the Philippine football team for the AFF Suzuki Cup.

The tournament, which has been named after one of the greatest players to don the maroon-and-white in Aboitizian, has already lured Macau and Chinese Taipei.

"Guam is interested in joining the tournament and they have been improving," said Philippine Football Federation president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta of the side that lost to the Azkals, 3-0, in a friendly in Binondo City last June 12.

Nonetheless, as the Long Yang Cup, the tournament has been renamed with the Philippines hosting it for the first time in the last week of September which marks a busy month for the Azkals who will play three matches only in the month.

The door was open for Guam following the confirmation of Hong Kong that it is not joining the tournament that it has won the last two years in Taiwan.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Football Federation on Thursday struck an agreement with Department of Education, which will now take an active role in the implementation of the Kasibulan program.

"It's another boost for the sport as we expand the Kasibulan program," said Araneta, after signing the agreement with Deputy secretary Armin Luistro.

Under the agreement, the PFF will substitute the training of football instructors from the ranks of DepEd and PFF.

The federation is undertaking the program backed by Digicel with the hope of discovering talents that will form the team bidding for a spot in the 2017 Under-17 World Cup.

RACELA

Tough Fiba Asia U18 bracket for Pinoys

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FEARLESS Filipinas under-16 team knows he a rough start to the Fiba Asia U16 tournament after getting grouped with some of the regional heavyweights yesterday.

The Philippines was bracketed in Group B with two-time champion and Asian powerhouse Iran, 2006 runner-up Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia for the preliminary round of the world qualifier set on August 17 to 26 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Mentored by Olsen Racela, the young Nationals will be led by under-16 ballplayer Jay Alejandro.

The Philippines missed a berth to the tournament after completing a title sweep of the 8th Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Sabas) U16 Championship for Men in Singapore last month.

Hosting champion China is in Group A along with Hong Kong, Lebanon and South Asia champion India in Group A.

Korea, runner-up to China in the last edition in 2010, will square off with Japan, Singapore and Syria in Group B.

Host Mongolia opted to join Group C teams Chinese Taipei, Indonesia and Bahrain.

The top three teams from each group will advance to the second round of the tournament, which serves as a qualifier for the Fiba U19 World Championship set in the Czech Republic from June 27 to July 7, 2013.

3 local URCC champs make One FC debuts

By Jose Marasco

WELTER specialists Eduard Folayang, Kevin Belingon and Eric Kelly will bring their act to a bigger stage as they debut in mixed martial arts One Fighting Championship visits Manila on Aug. 31.

Champions in their respective divisions in the homegrown URCC, the trio have jumped into the international mixed martial arts stage with Kelly of Baguio City making his debut against American Jess Johnnie Pabres, the Best Filipino Fighting Championship lightweight champion.

Folayang, the last pound-for-pound MMA fighter in the Philippines, will also have his coming-out party in One FC as the Ateneo Coliseum as well as URCC flyweight champion Belingon, but organizers have yet to come up with their highly-prolific opponents.

Folayang, who holds a flight record of 11-2, is the current URCC welterweight champion and a veteran competitor for the national team, having won the wushu gold medal in the 2011 Southeast Asian Games and silver in the 2006 Asian Games.

Belingon (9-2) is from Baguio and a top fly-weight prospect in the tournament while Kelly, who enters an impressive 7-0 record, is the URCC featherweight champion.

Despite the disparity in experience and accomplishments, Kelly thinks he could pulverize the 37-year-old Pabres, a boxing and muay thai expert, inside the ring. Pabres owns five finishes in nine of only two fighters who defeated BJ Penn in the UFC.

Aside from Pabres, One FC has also brought former UFC heavyweight champion Andrei Arlovski and Olympic judo, one of Asia's most popular MMA fighters and known as the grandmaster of flying submissions.

Arlovski, a kickboxing specialist from Belarus, takes on Australian Nico Pulotti, a 6-foot-4 submission-dreamer who weighs 200 lb and owns a 17-3 record.

GETTING together after the team captains meeting of the 7th PAL Ladies Interclub are (from left) tournament co-chair Jane Garcia, advisers Georgina Guerrero and Felix Cruz, and chair Trina Ong. Posing with tournament director Bobby Benavidez, and Pasig club general manager Butch Jamorlan.

Superal downs Shon, books quarterfinal berth

PRINCESS Superal secured in a superb game in the early going then cruised to a 20-1 victory over Kelly Shon to barge into the quarterfinal round of the Women's Team Stroke Play Championship at the Members Club at Woodcrest in South Carolina Thursday.

Superal score 1-up at the turn and held on to it before taking another hole on the 17th to wrap up the done-rounds for the win that secured a measure of ICTSI-backed bets.

The 11-year-old Superal earlier teamed Collins Bradshaw, 4&2, in the Last 32 phase where she posted a 3-up lead at the turn before cruising to victory. She will take on Shon in the Fourth Round at 9:30 a.m. today.

"It's no fun here and Princess was so relaxed after the grueling day-long struggle," said ICTSI coach Hector Mendiona.

Davis Andrea dropped a heartbreaking setback to Kelsey Vines in a match that took 29 holes to finish, bagging the final hole from the last to lose out.

Sarah Abalos lost on Kate Scarpetta, 7&6, Angela Angeli bowed to Tilly Prudvin, 2&1, and Cyna Rodriguez also dropped a 2&1 decision to Regina Plasencia.

Asian karting starts

DAVAONA Mayor Rio Sunta Lizada will be the guest of honor as the four-round karters shootout for titles at stake today in the Philippine Kart Rix 2012 Asian Karting Open Championship for Juniors and Seniors at Carmelray.

Lizada will start the simple opening circuit '12 races along with other officials of the sanctioning Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) led by AAP Director Jun Capino, who will official the race. Rix karts open is a tournament supported by the Philippine Sports Commission.

A total of 83 karters from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Macau, Hong Kong and host Philippines will compete for titles in the Formula 125 Open Senior, Formula 125 Open Junior, Rotax Max, 100 Open Senior and Expert, 80 Novice Expert and Veteran, and the Honda Cup Senior and Novice classes.

Most of the races will be on the previous Formula 125 Open Senior where a bigger field of 26 karters engages in a grueling, unpredictable battle for the coveted place.

'Drift' championship up

THE TUASON Karting School (TKS) Control Drift Team wanted to see another season of exciting action and challenges with multi-titled champion Mike Tuason and Ryan Gregg leading spearheading its campaign for the titles at stake in the 2012 Lucenz Drift Championship Series (six kicking off today at the Quezon Coliseum).

Watching the Control RX7 on Tuason will be pushing his talents against the top guns in the Pro division while Gregg's book will be vying for the crown in the Amateur class.

Tuason enjoyed a rough journey this season as he goes up against the elite and more experienced top guns of the premiere class.

Unphased, a product of Tuason Racing's Tough Driver Challenge, hopes to surpass last year's feat by aiming for bigger accomplishments this season and winning the Lucenz Drifting Amateur crown is just one of them.

For more information visit www.tuasonracing.com or like Tuason Racing School on Facebook or call the TRS secretariat at 8204200 for more details.

PAL Ladies' Interclub reels in bigger field

THE SECOND edition of the Philippine Airlines (PAL) Ladies' Interclub golf championship's revival has now drawn 29 teams (210 head and five foreign) as the number quickly outstrunk last year's enemies with still two months to go before the event tees off in Iloilo.

Australia will be represented in the annual event as the Sta. Barbara layout, known as the oldest golf course in the Far East, is being spruced up to championship standard for the four-day event.

Southwoods will defend the title it won at the expense of Del Monte last year as PAL hopes it will be the first of many events.

"The club is excited to host the Ladies Interclub," club manager Butch Jamorlan said as he emphasized the readiness of the 105-year-old layout. "The field will be in for a very different challenge."

Sta. Barbara is a par-70 course that, when stretched for pro tournaments, can measure up to just a little over 6,400 yards.

But Jamorlan is reiterating that Sta. Barbara is not just about bombing it off the tees, as powerfully every hole requires an accurate tee shot for placements on the fairways to make for the best approaches as to undercutting greens.

"This course is all about accuracy," Jamorlan continued. "It doesn't necessarily require you to just bang out shots, but well-planned drives that can reward a player in the end."

Registration is still open with the tournament open to teams made up of eight players.

Gasol: I feel like a beast

LONDON—Pau Gasol said on Thursday he felt like a "beast" after working hard to prepare for his talented role in Spain's bid for Olympic line dreams in basketball.

"I have been preparing myself and working to get better this summer," Gasol, a two-time National Basketball Association (NBA) champion with the Los Angeles Lakers, told reporters at a media conference.

"First for the Olympics and to perform at a high level to be able to achieve our goal, and then when the Olympics are over, take a little break and continue to prepare myself for what's going to be a very demanding (NBA) season, a season where we (the Lakers) want to get back on top as a team."

NBA teammate Kobe Bryant took notice after Gasol led Spain with 19 points in an exhibition game defeat to the United States in Barcelona on Tuesday.

Bryant said the 7-foot, 32-year-old Gasol looked stronger, aimed by constant and pushing back to an impressive display that bodes well for future Lakers' success.

"I'm a beast," Gasol said with a grin. "Yeah, I feel pretty good. I feel strong."

Spain, runner-up to the US team at the Beijing Games, play their first game of the Olympic tournament on Sunday against China.

"We remember our game to the last Olympics," said Spain coach Sergio Scariolo.

Gasol said the opening of the Olympics tournament was always personally tricky.

"It's the first game of the championship and we want to start well," he said. Reuters

Japan XI sinks Spanish armada

CARDIFF, Wales—Japan upset Spain, 1-0, on the first day of the men's Olympic football tournament on Thursday, while Brazil held on for a 3-2 victory over Egypt and host Britain had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Senegal.

Uruguay and Belarus also won on the tournament get under way with eight matches the day before Friday's opening ceremony.

Japan pulled off the surprising win after outplaying gold-medal favorite Spain, which went a man down in the first half and couldn't fight back.

Brandi got a three first half goals but nearly squandered the lead in the second, scraping with the victory to begin its quest for its first gold in Olympic football.

Britain's defeat was spoiled by a late goal conceded in the dying seconds by Senegal.

Japan got the winner in Glasgow when forward Yuki Ohta broke away from his marker during a corner in the 24th minute and the ball landed right at his feet for a simple tap in past Manchester United goalkeeper David De Gea.

Spain's best moment to 18 came just a few minutes after the goal when center back Iñigo Martínez was sent off for a foul while trying to stop a Japanese player from scoring.

"It was an important win for us," Japan captain Hiroa Nishida said. "Spain is a very strong team in the group and we played well against them. We worked really hard and we will enjoy our victory. We can get a lot of confidence from this."

The loss comes as a blow for Spain's under-23 team, which wants to win Olympic gold to add to the World Cup and European Championship titles held by the country's full national team. AP

GYMNAST Huang Qiantong of China trains at the North Greenwich Arena before the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games. This picture was taken using multiple exposures. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Swimmer Phelps more relaxed this time

LONDON—Michael Phelps was strolling through the Olympic Village when he spotted New Zealand female athletes, all of them taller than the 6-foot-4-inch (193 cm) swimmer.

"Gary, I thought I was tall," he said with a chuckle.

Preparing for what he insists will be his final Olympics, Phelps appears to be having a lot more fun heading into the London Games than he did at either Athens or Beijing, where he was under intense pressure to turn in the greatest performances in Olympic history.

"This is chosen," Phelps said Thursday, sitting beside coach Bob Bowman in the largest conference room at the Main Press Center. "Now it's just a matter of how many toppings I want on my sundae."

Several hundred media packed the room, including Olympic speedskating star Apolo Anton Ohno, who was working for NBC and got to a question about how Phelps keeps things simple with all the distractions.

Actually, he seems to be having a blast. After Phelps walked in the room, Ohno pulled out his phone and snapped a picture of all the reporters and cameras staring back at him, capturing another moment on his beloved Twitter.

"In Beijing, we were trying to squeeze everything," Phelps remembered. "We're a lot more relaxed. We're having fun."

Not that he's got a lot of time to chill in London. He's still swimming most events (three more than Beijing) and runs Mare Nostrum's four individual races, and all three relays. The only change from China is Phelps' giving up a chance to swim the 200-meter freestyle, feeling he would have a better chance at success with a slightly less strenuous program.

Besides, there's really nothing left to accomplish other than becoming the most decorated Olympian ever. The 27-year-old Phelps has already become the

PHELPS

first athlete to win eight golds at a single games, and the 14 golds in his career are more than anyone else. The only record left to beat is coach Spitzer, the 18 won by Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina.

Phelps is at 16 and doubled Latynina's coach-ladden through the eight-day swimming program, which begins Saturday.

"This is the last competition meet. I'm going to have in my career," Phelps said. "It's big. It's something I've been expecting. I'm going to have a lot of fans and a lot of fans that work." AP

Javier faces . . .

Cabral, who will shooting for a higher spot in the women's individual classification round at presstime Friday night (early dawn Saturday in Manila).

The 2012 recurve three-time pit the No. 1-ranked Bautista with the No. 66, the No. 2 against No. 63, No. 3 versus No. 62 and so on.

Pierre Le Corre, Team Japan sportsdirector of the mighty South Korean squad, nailed the top spot in the 32-pair knockout stage with a new world record 699 points, three better than the old mark of 696 he himself set at the world championships in Turkey only in February.

Another Korean, Kim Bubeenis, also destroyed the old record with 698 and was second, followed by still another Korean, Oh Jinhyek, who fired 696.

In the competition that was held under **overcast skies, Javier's cause was left undone** by a paltry opening half of 326, a score that left his fourth Korean rival to Hong Jae Jun-Ho's pit at the contact table.

"He [Javier] did not put himself where I wanted him to be in the classification," said Hong of Javier, the 18 year-old veteran from Dominguez City whose stint in the 2008 Beijing Olympics ended disastrously right in the first round. "I'm certain in his next treatment to be able to do well on Monday."

Javier has his highest ranked for from Chinese Taipei in Beijing 2008 until the last five persons when scores bobbled up and drowned in bit.

Javier had earlier said he wanted to improve on his performance of four years ago.

"Yung malaking dusot sa akin yung (I featured a lot) Olympics sa Beijing," said Javier, who shot 634 in those Games. "Nandoon ako nerbiyos and nabitin 30ch 'Sir have a good coach now, so we need to perform well this time."

Flashback to Los Angeles 1984

SOUTHPAW

Percy D. Dello

LOS ANGELES—My first, and (without your my last Olympics was Los Angeles 28 years ago.

I wasn't sent by a media outlet to report on the 1984 edition; I was right smack-dab in the middle of it.

As a spokesperson of the California Museum of Science and Industry then, I was at ground zero for Hollywood's lavish production of the highest-profile sporting event in the world.

The museum's function as the "Southern part of the Mall" and since sandwiched California Science Center, shares the Exposition Park Complex with the Los Angeles Coliseum, the main venue of LA Olympics.

After all the same rules property is the LA Memorial Sports Arena, site of the boxing matches across the street in the University of Southern California was the Pan-Pacific Auditorium where swimming competitions were held.

The vast Olympic facilities LA had their subtitle. Indianapolis—Montreal 1976 had four years more hanging over the Olympic shoulders. Munich 1972 had bigger arenas all over it (the famed Swiss and 50-ultra stadium, including two of Jesse Owens' four-gold performances, ushered in the Nazi era).

Not that he's got a lot of time to chill in London. He's still swimming most events (three more than Beijing) and runs Mare Nostrum's four individual races, and all three relays. The only change from China is Phelps' giving up a chance to swim the 200-meter freestyle, feeling he would have a better chance at success with a slightly less strenuous program.

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The 1.6 Games had Peter Ueberroth who not only ignited "Native Americans" all over the heartland. He also started the era of profitable Olympics to come.

"Peter Ueberroth" refers to the gaggle of his fans at the LA Games that exactly one of each, public, inspector, jeweler Mark Spitz genius, and other happy riders on Olympic signage and every on staff and. Except that had since been reduced to surrendering Olympics.

After impressively Olympic sponsorships came of age under Ueberroth, who became major league baseball commissioner after the 1984 Games. Exploiting Olympic sponsorships in addition the LA Olympics, Ueberroth recruited a surplus of more than $225 million at the end of 14 days of sports competition.

The Ueberroth experiment has become the model for Olympic hosts that once would spending their own bucks and private sponsorships and television and other contributing rights to stage profits.

Of course, there are political and social drawbacks to Games sponsorships as glossed from the 2008 Beijing Games, which made business positions played what to Amnesty International and refused to speak about Tibet for the sake of business expediency.

The 2008 to the Twenty Company's is much says that losing part of the Olympics enhances brand image and maximizes growth.

* * *

At virtual Dome to the Games, the museum relinquished compliance parking to the LA Olympic Organizing Committee. Among the recipients of prime parking passes were Hollywood movie moguls.

Courtesy of my museum boss who said he got tickets from Orion Pictures co-founder Mike Medavoy, I witnessed the opening ceremonies and participated by the great David Bridges.

Bridges is credited with setting new standards for Olympic opening ceremonies. Among others, he assembled 84 pianists in white tuxes and baby blue sneakers with tails while playing "Rhapsody in Blue," now a must tune according to a sit-quick into the Coliseum and orchestrated a cool must involving the entire arena turned that displayed flags of every competing nation.

But what puts everybody goose bumps was the release of 1,000 Olympic dreamline dancer Sister Arkansas performers running through the stage and up into the seats to support Le Liaisons.

* * *

With a group of Olympic musicians hosted by the US State Department, I previewed the Olympic venues, including that his embarking at USC where Australia's self-touched a two Olympic pool hosts.

Dipping deep into our pockets, Brenda Brimhall and I bought tickets to watch Filipino lightweight Leopoldo Cintracion in one of his matches at the Sports Arena.

Brenda had some favorite Cintracion matches and we shot family in Orange County during the Games.

BOLT

BLAKE

Bolt admits having back problems

LONDON—Usain Bolt finally confessed there has been something wrong. It was his back.

The Olympic champion said Thursday a bad back has been causing him harvesting problems, leading to a pair of losses to teammate Yohan Blake at the Jamaican trials.

"It was a slight problem. I got that fixed and I'm ready to go," Bolt said in his first formal media appearance of the London Games, where he was given the honor of carrying his country's flag in Friday's opening ceremony.

Bolt lost to Blake twice at the recent Jamaican trials in both the 100 and his favored 200 meters. The setbacks fueled speculation that he was injured but haven't dampened expectations that he will retain his 100 and 200 gold medals.

"My theory (as the trials) was all right, I'm fit. I needed a shot in the back," Bolt said. "I can't complain. It's always a wake up call to get beaten. For me it's all about getting it right on the days. I'm all right now." AP

Badminton starts buildup for 2016 Rio Olympics

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RIO DE JANEIRO—Badminton is embarking on a long-term campaign to host a "powerhouse team" that will take a crack at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Philippine Badminton Association secretary general Rep. Allen Bonoan announced on Thursday the renewed drive to boost the sport in launching the members of the national junior team who will be the people later sportsbeat the country's campaign in the next Olympics.

"When badminton experienced a spike in popularity, the level of competitiveness shifted on mainly it," Bonoan said spectacular over lunch with members of the national team inside the Philippine Sports Commission's Badminton Hall. "Now we thought of giving the sport a second life and move forward."

With funding from top sponsors like go Bonoan said Smart Sports, the 1986 listed Indonesian Olympic and World champion Rexy Mainaky to oversee the team. He will be assisted by compatriots and Olympian Minarti Timur and several local coaches.

Bonoan said the bulk of the budget will go to foreign exposure.

There are 16 members of the national team and 22 in junior, who were culled from across the country and are given free board and lodging and even scholarships.

"I think we are moving in the right direction because this early our neighbors are taking notice already," added Bonoan, referring to the coaches of Jojo Bacarra and Ariel Magpayo, who managed to beat Indonesian talent during two international tournaments, including the recent Super Series event of Harrim Indonesia.

The team's double tandem of Bacarra and Magpayo are now ranked 102nd in the world from over 200 three months ago. Bonoan said the goal is to put Filipino players in the top 50 by next year. The highest rank held by a Filipino was 11th in mixed double by siblings Kristie and Resurrecion Bacaro.

"It's not just the skill, but the physical fitness and running method. Right now we are following a test that will compare the total physical fitness of the player so we are adding sports science. We are doing all these with the ultimate goal of forming a team that could compete in Rio," Bonoan said.

SPORTS

Renewing a rivalry

Eagles face Archers; Tigers test Bulldogs

By Jasmine W. Payo

JUST over a month ago, La Salle smeared Ateneo rival Ateneo in a summer league.

But coaches of both squads hardly see that as a gauge when the Blue Eagles and the Green Archers clash for the first time in Season 75 of the UAAP men's basketball tournament today.

"Dati or second, the Eagles and the Archers got for a third straight in the expected Finals series battle at 4 p.m. at the Mall of Asia Arena.

"We beat Ateneo without Greg Slaughter and it's a pressure game," said new La Salle coach Gee Abanilla. "They're a very strong team with Greg and some of the veterans. They have the system of coach Norman (Black), for a very long time, that spells the difference between a good and a great team."

University of Santo Tomas and National University collide in the first game at 11 a.m. with both teams coming off big wins.

Tickets for the two senior games are sold separately.

Although Black admits that his Eagles weren't in top shape yet in their summer encounter, last, 62-59, he knows what the Archers are capable of with their improved core led by Nonbert Torres and LA Revilla.

"La Salle is much improved," said Black. "They got a good recruiting period to the last couple of years. It's starting to pay dividends for them."

The winner of the cold-war drawdown will stay behind underneath the fastest University, the Lions leader at 3-0.

A victory by NU in the other game will also give the Bulldogs a share of second.

In their returning meltdowns against the Tigers last week, a limited out Slaughter added to the Eagles' woes.

"We're trying to keep our players fresh and we already talked to Greg how to stay out of foul trouble," said Black.

The Eagles have recovered from their 71-70 upset LOST loss with Slaughter, Nico Salva and Xiarlo Reverso teaming in Dark 89-63 clubbing

AFTER teaming UST pair Arevalo, Jervi Teng tries to spark the Tigers past the MU Bulldogs. ALEXIS CELESTE

of the Bulldogs.

Meanwhile, the Bulldogs rebounded strong by crushing the University of the Philippines, 67-50, last Thursday.

"We have to be ready for UST," said NU coach Eric Altamirano. "They had a good game against Ateneo. They have lots of weapons and also lots of confidence since they beat the No. 1 team. We have to be ready."

Olympics: Bad form may hound Javier foe

By Ted S. Melendrez

LONDON—He's got a reasonable to climb in advance in the broadest stages, but Mark Javier is unruffled.

The country's main hope in archery at these London Olympics is hoping that his foe in the first round of the men's 72-arrow individual competition...former World No. 3 Ellison Brady of the United States—can...arrows his bad form here.

"He [Brady] is very good but he's struggling," Javier said in Filipino of his 24-year-old opponent. "I want to think that he's not used to posting that low score (670) in competition."

Javier, who is vying to redress himself from a disastrous first-round finish in the Beijing Olympics four years ago, where he yielded the lead in his 36-arrow opponent only to the last five arrows, said the format in the knockout stages offers him a chance to upset Brady.

The top 64 archers are paired for the match play, called the Olympic Round, in which the No. 1 qualifier has the No. 64, No. 2 has No. 63, and so on.

The archers play matches out of 5 sets of 3 arrows. The winner of each set—the archer who gets the highest cumulative score with his three arrows—gets 2 set points. If the set is tied, each competitor gets 1 set point. The archer who gets the number of set points, not the score of the arrows, wins the match.

"It's a new Olympic format and gives everyone an even chance of winning an upset," said Javier, who made it to the Games during the sport's last qualifying tournament in Utah two months ago.

Javier and Rachelle Anne Gabral, who was still competing in the women's individual event as yesterday, today, nine-member Olympic delegation by a new training regimen ordered by their Korean coach, Hong Jun Jun.

"My score (649) today is basically my average," said Javier. "The real competition starts in the match play because of the new scoring system."

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ERC approves rates for renewable energy

Solar firms unhappy with P9.68/kWh

By Amy R. Remo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission issued yesterday the much-awaited feed-in-tariff (FIT) rates for four renewable energy resources, eliciting a mix of relief and disappointment among local energy developers.

In a statement, the ERC said it approved a FIT rate of P9.68 a kilowatt-hour for solar, P8.53 a kWh for wind, P6.63 a kWh for biomass and P5.90 a kWh for hydropower projects. The commission, however, deferred fixing the FIT rate for Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (Otec) resource for further study and data gathering.

The issuance of the FIT rates has been deemed crucial in boosting the local renewable energy industry as this would provide developers an incentive with the assurance of fixed cashflow for their power projects over the next 20 years.

However, the approved FIT rates were much lower than what was petitioned by the National Renewable Energy Board in May last year, which then sought a P17.95-a-kWh rate for solar; P10.37 for wind; P7 kWh for biomass, and P6.15 for hydro resources.

"The ERC [has] lowered the FIT [rates] to cushion the impact of implementing the FIT incentive mechanism under the Renewable Energy Act on electricity users while still being sufficient enough to attract new investments to renewable energy. This is win-win for all," explained ERC executive director Francis Saturnino Juan.

Juan added that the approved FIT rates would be subjected to a review and readjustment (subsidy it will be increased or decreased) by the ERC after the initial three-year implementation of these rates. The new FIT rates, however, will not be applicable for projects that will be put up during the first three years of implementation.

The Department of Energy for its part, has expressed appreciation to the ERC for issuing the FIT rates on the soonest possible time.

"We are fully aware of the various risks and the challenges of the commission in issuing a balanced view to be able to serve the needs of all stakeholders regarding the rates. We are thankful for their effort and we hope that all other stakeholders' concerns are incorporate with everyone so he able to establish a competitive and dynamic power market that is envisioned to benefit all," the DOE said in a statement issued yesterday.

The issuance also brought relief to some local renewable energy developers who have been putting off their projects while they await the final rates.

BRC, B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE (July 27, 2012)
41.900

STOCK MARKET (July 27, 2012)
66.99

Stocks up on BSP rate cut

LOCAL stocks rallied yesterday after the local central bank slashed key interest rates to a record low under the European Central Bank crowd to protect the fragile euro zone.

The main index Philippine Stock Exchange index surged 66.99 points or 1.3 percent to close at 5,216.05.

After a sluggish start this week, the PSEi reversed early losses and rose modestly, slightly higher than last week's close of 5,216.86.

All counters were up, but the steepest gain was posted by the interest rate-sensitive property index, which jumped 2.18 percent, crossover for the day rose to P90 billion. There were 81 advancers that outnumbered 59 decliners while 44 stocks were unchanged.

The PSEi was led higher by Ayala Land Ltd. 10 percent), SMIC (+2.36 percent), BDO (+1.14 percent), Megaworld (+2.28 percent), Phinma Mining (+3.92 percent), ALI (+2 percent), JM Prime (+2.14 percent) and SM Prime (+2.30 percent). Ayala, PLDT, Metrobank, Ash, First Gen and BPI also contributed modest gains.

STOCKS, B1

PH ranked 63rd in global food survey

By Nikko T. Chikiamco

SINGAPORE—The Philippines ranked 63rd out of 105 countries surveyed in the Economic Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Food Security Index, which found the country to have relatively affordable and nutritious food but also had challenges in making food accessible to some Filipinos.

In terms of the three pillars measured in the Index, the

PH, B2

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DMCI power unit signs supply deal with Paleco

Firm to put up more facilities in Palawan

By Amy R. Borja

THE CONSOLIDATED DMCI Power Corp. has signed a 15-year power supply agreement with the Palawan Electric Cooperative (Paleco), a move that will help raise the right power supply and address the growing demand in the province.

Power firm DMCI Holdings Inc. under the disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday said it expected that its power subsidiary also received a formal notice of award from Paleco to supply 25 megawatts in grass dependable capacity.

The company will be providing the capacity through the 27-megawatt diesel-fired power plant it will be putting up at a cost generation rate of P9.38 a kilowatt-hour.

DMCI Power president Monte Ibañez earlier said that the company was targeting to start commercial operations of the 27-MW diesel facility in Palawan by Sept. 1 next year.

Ibañez had said that DMCI would also be putting up a 10-MW coal-fired power plant on Oct. 25, 2014, and another 10-MW coal facility by January 2017 to address the growing power demand in Palawan. All the capacities to be generated by the two facilities would likewise be purchased and used by Paleco, Ibañez had added.

DMCI Power has since expressed interest to put up power facilities within the off-grid areas such as Palawan, which are being served by state-run National Power Corp.'s mini-coop electrification area, the Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG).

Aside from Palawan, DMCI Power chair Isidro Consunji said the company was planning to put up diesel-fired and small coal facilities in Mindoro and on Tablas Island in Romblon.

With the move to allow private-sector investors like DMCI Power to enter the off-grid SPUG areas to build, own and operate generation facilities, the government will soon be relieved by not being shoulder the power rates for customers served by the main grids who also shoulder part of the cost of the subsidy program for those areas.

The subsidy is recovered from main grid customers through the universal charge's missionary electrification (UCME) component in their power bills.

PH ranked 63rd in global food survey

From page B1

Philippine food fairly well in affordability (with a score of 42.0 out of the highest score of 100) and food quality (with a score of 54.0), but not so well in availability (with a score of 37.7), experts said in the Deliver Smart Media forum here.

The Philippines ranked second mid-level in affordability and food quality because prices were not so expensive as in other countries and universally and immediately were high, said Rumena S. Abadilla, country managing director of DuPont Inc. East Inc. "The Philippines also ranked well in availability in terms of having agencies checking on food nutrition and quality, as well as school feeding and other programs that push agencies and communities to make sure that people, especially children, get nutritious food," Abadilla said.

However, the country faces challenges in maintaining food and making it available to most people. "Programs such as the Balik-Eskwela will only maintain system and having more hats to market foods for key areas are addressing the issues of availability," Abadilla said.

Generally, lack of infrastructure, rapid population growth, and access to financing were among the challenges for countries that did not fare well in the survey, said Pershing Thaden III, regional director for Middle East and Africa. She added that vulnerability to price shocks was another dimension that future versions of the study would highlight.

Meanwhile Jeremy Reed and Agriculture Organization (FAO) assistant director-general and regional representative for Asia and the Pacific, also noted that high economic growth in many countries has not translated to alleviating hunger because there are those who did not benefit from development. "In terms of food, there are now one billion people overweight and not about one billion go to bed hungry. Aside from food production and distribution, food wastage is also an issue that must be addressed," Reed said.

Both arable land and water resources including yield maximization. "All at the same time, productivity increases must have to technology, environmental impact, climate swings in unison distance, oil price increases, the effect of renewable energy growth on food output, and rapid urbanization, Konnen said.

DuPont officials said the company's commissioned the first-of-its-kind study to address the need to feed a global population, which will reach 9 billion by 2050 from the current 7 billion.

"Using the index which addresses the underlying drivers of food security and highlights areas for improvement in each of the countries, it is intended that governments, academics, NGOs [non-government organizations] and farmer organizations in this region can share a common language and start to comprehensive food security projects," said Carl Lahaela, president of DuPont East Asia.

However, Department of Agriculture reported that it aimed to improve food security by achieving rice self-sufficiency before the end of 2013. To this, the agency said, per capita have decreased to a projected 100,000 metric tons this year from 2.07 million metric tons in 2010. Irrigation projects continued with better certified seeds, promotion sweet corn to help further improve output in rice, couldn't most politically important staple food.

RFM net profit up 42% to ₱302M

By Doris C. Dumlao

EBITDA and beverage group RFM Corp. grew its first-quarter net income 42 percent to P302 million as sales expanded while commodity input prices eased.

In a statement, RFM reported that the bottomline was on the back of a 10-percent year-on-year growth in sales to P5.3 billion. The company said its sales and income growth appeared to be "well on the way to achieving or even exceeding its full-year targets."

RFM president Jose Concepcion III noted that the company's income growth was accomplished due to a combination of lower commodity input costs such a milk and sugar as well as increasing sales of higher value products.

"We are likewise benefiting from better economies of scale as we reach the critical mass of sales volume in our key brands. Selecta ice cream, in joint venture with Unilever, as well as Pizza pizza, reaching its higher profitability levels," he said.

Concepcion added that the bullish economic climate was encouraging consumer confidence and spending and likewise boosting business confidence. "Particularly all the company's branch have been showing growth over last year, led by Selecta ice cream, White King Pan de pinto, Selecta milk and Stanilait juice," he said.

Selecta, in particular, benefited from newly launched Mayumi ice cream (the Filipino chocolate ice cream and, which the company reported to have "become a name among the youth market." With positive supply availability, Selecta has reduced the frequency of out-of-stock report days since it was launched in March.

With a dominant 71-percent share of the ice cream market, Selecta has continued to grow the ice cream category with "affordable" innovations in its tasteful and Chinese bites.

RFM's White King Pinoys 4U, alone, reflects the brand's fast-growing pinoy business, expanded its market leadership position to 25 percent from 23 percent last year, according to Concepcion. In his statement, Pinoys posted an even larger market share of 38 percent.

Others White King products such as all-purpose flour, hot cake and flour mixes have also captured a good slice of the market that pushes easy-to-prepare Filipino native cakes and baked goodies, he added.

"We believe that stronger brand equity and continuous product innovations have influenced the shift in buying patterns and frequency in a number of categories we participate in," Concepcion said.

Moving forward, Concepcion also disclosed RFM's intention to accelerate growth organically and through prudent acquisitions and strategic partnerships.

ERC approves rates for renewable energy

From page B1

While many were thankful that the FIT rates were finally set, some developers lamented that such rates, which were lower than expected, may prove to be a challenging hurdle towards its plans to reach self-sufficiency. The high costs required to roll out their power projects. Many of them, who have been polled by the Inquirer, have said that they may have to go back to their drawing boards to reassess the economic viability of their projects.

Theresa Cruz-Capellan, founder of Philippine Solar Power Alliance, noted that their rates yet to see how the industry players would react given the FIT rate for wind. The key area was for players, particularly in the solar group, to be able to achieve energies so they could build power facilities at that rate.

JP Rommel A. Soliman, president of the local unit of Danish-based Suncreate Projects Inc. added that they have yet to study the considerations of the ERC in arriving at this FIT for solar so they could assess if it would still be financially feasible to construct a facility.

"In saying the solar sector has just been lifted to the roadside, it's a pity since solar is the hottest RE to be deployed and you serve a very useful purpose in our country's energy mix," added Marvin Pryan Delgado, company managing director of Energy Logics Philippines Inc.

Stocks up on BSP rate cut

From page B1

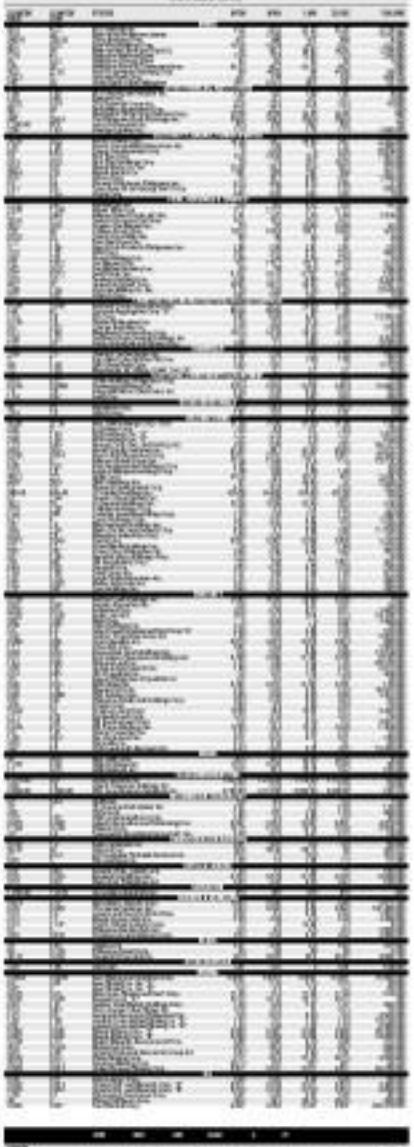
Risk appetite across global markets was pushed up by a statement from the ECB that it would defend the euro zone. Overnight, the Dow Jones industrial index surged 1.67 percent to 12,897.93 while its broad market-cover likewise mostly leapt.

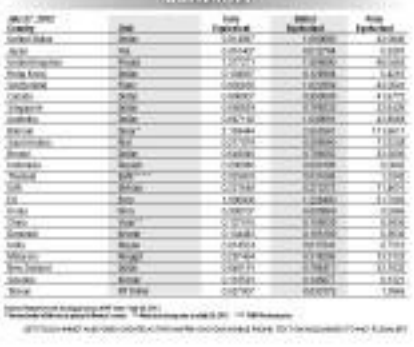
The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' reduction of its key overnight borrowing rate by 25 basis points to a new record low of 3.75 percent also helped boost market sentiment.

"The move was unexpected because there is little sign of the Philippine economy being driven by any global weakness. The cuts have been a response to record rapid flows," BA Markets forecasters said in a recent commentary.

Prior to the rate reduction, the BSP prohibited foreign funds from investing in its high-yielding special deposit accounts (SDAs) and also increased the interest rates on the SDAs to make these less attractive to carry trades, as these borrowing from low-interest rate markets to invest in higher-yielding markets.

Doris C. Dumlao





Defenses vs hot money surge readied

By Michelle V. Bunoz

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it is ready to implement counter-measures to ensure stability within the economy.

"A major challenge for central banks [of emerging economies] like the Philippines is a surge in capital flows. It can cause too much liquidity in the system and pose some problems to the economy," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

He said that in the event of the BSP observes flexibility in implementing whatever appropriate measures there are to curb capital flows and manage its impact on the economy.

Euro zone woes may prompt more inflows, says BSP

Last Thursday, the BSP cut its key policy rates by 25 basis points to new record lows of 3.75% percent for overnight borrowing and 5.75 percent for overnight lending.

The move, although primarily meant to support economic growth, is also seen to help temper foreign portfolio investments. The rate cuts historically will narrow the gap between yields of Philippine securities and US Treasuries which, in turn, gives foreign portfolio investors less incentive to invest in peso-denominated securities instead of US treasuries.

Despite the narrowed yield differential resulting from the BSP's own cuts, Guinigundo said the BSP cannot rule out the possibility of a surge in foreign portfolio investments. This is because the prolonged debt crisis in the euro zone could drive yield-seeking investors to purchase more assets from emerging markets.

Guinigundo said the BSP has reasons of assurances that if cuts implemented should prove to be a surge in inflows, it can ignore it like it did in the past.

These include "more synchronized recovery" which see bank liquidities rise than just limits on exposure of banks to certain assets. Meeting the exposure of banks, Guinigundo said, is not a problem since for macroeconomic, as well as economic reasons, the BSP will help reduce overall demand for securities.

Another is the source of investment, which is the proportion of deposits that banks divert from outside the BSP as sources. Guinigundo said making the reserve requirement, which is currently set at 18 percent, could help siphon off excess liquidity from the economy in a quick, informative effect could be imposed, he said.

Guinigundo said the BSP also has the option of further relaxing foreign exchange rules. Doing so will make it easier for people to move pesos to dollars, countering the impact of foreign currency inflows.

Data from the BSP showed that foreign portfolio investments since the start of the year to July is registered a net inflow of $1.2 billion. This was lower than the $2.164 billion in the same period last year.

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ad-vt

Davao City first to experience Globe Telecom LTE network

By Paolo G. Montecillo

MOSTSMART of Davao City will be the first in the country to test the full offering of Globe Telecom's multi-billion-peso network modernization.

The upgrade of Davao's cellular network, which is expected to lead to better, more reliable and faster Internet speeds, will serve as Globe's test bed for the company's nationwide network transformation.

The two telcos and their mutual rivals neighbors, who comprise the most populous region in Mindanao, are now more empowered to enjoy mobile Internet services, as they tout them with much improved call quality, instantaneous text messaging capabilities, as well as richer, faster web browsing experience," Globe said in a statement Friday.

The Davao region broke ground in the fashion of over 18,000 kilometers of fiber optic cable supporting the conversion of its 3G long-term evolution (LTE) system. The company said it expects to improve its network traffic management to accommodate and protect more users, and add data capacity to cell sites.

The Globe modernization will also significantly enhance its 3G footprint in more Mindanao towns and municipalities, translating to more stable 3G signals for customers.

Globe's upgrades in Davao would form a significant part of the company's $796 million network modernization and IT transformation, Globe president Ernest Cu said.

This is being done to allow the telco, which has the second most number of subscribers in the country, to keep up with the exponential growth in network traffic driven by the popularity of Internet-enabled smart phones and other mobile devices.

"It was opportune for the network to also move on data mega-cities in Mindanao since it had a vast number of potential subscribers, and the demand for its services had tremendously increased over the years—both of which are now being served by the new network in place," Cu said.

He said Davao subscribers could now make calls with unparalleled clarity, receive text messages more promptly and perform faster and higher-end downloading.

Globe's main rival Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) is likewise upgrading its own network. The company committed P67 billion to upgrade its network upgrades.

"The network build of Globe in Davao and its nearby areas would translate to more mobile coverage, increased data speeds and better network reliability in that part of the country," Globe Telecom chief technical officer Robert Tim said.

In terms of service quality after the upgrade, one call set-up rate target is also substantially. There, it will now make it. Davao consistently gets connected even at first try," he said.

Deutsche Regis, ING Bank reap honors from fund managers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOCAL fund management community has voted Deutsche Regis Partners as "Best Equities House" and ING Bank as the "Best Fixed Income House" for 2012.

The Fund Managers Association of the Philippines (FMAP)—an influential institutional investor community with 46 members and a combined P4 trillion worth of assets under management—surveys its members each year to pick the best equities and fixed income houses. The 12th annual FMAP awards took place Wednesday night.

For the first time, the fund management community also gave the company a "Template of the Year" award, which was won by Ayala Corp. This award is based on the following criteria: corporate governance and transparency, access to shareholders and group financial performance.

"The FMAP Awards gives recognition to the well-side members and wider people who are judged by the fund management community as the best of the best in their respective sectors of coverage," FMAP president Hallard Peter said.

"The importance of the role of analysts grown as the Philippines is now put in a preferred investment destination in the global stage," said Peters.

Winning second and third place in the "Best Equities House" category were AB Kim Eng Securities Inc. and Macquarie Securities Phils. The managing for "Best Fixed Income House" were Citibank and Deutsche Bank.

Deutsche Regis, AB Kim Eng and Macquarie also bagged top honors in research and equities sales.

Named as best equities strategists were Rafa Constantino (Deutsche Regis); Jaty Fontanilla (Macquarie) and Alfred Ty (CLSA). Deutsche Regis' Gio Orlo Rosa, Rafa Constantino and Ike Fernandez were likewise named as top equities analysts alongside Fontanilla of Macquarie.

Cited as the best economists in the equities category were Jesli Lumagbas (UBP Online Exp), Jojo Guerzon (Philippine Equity Partners) and Romulo Manzanilla (Macquarie). Named as best equities salespersons were Jojo Aquino (AB Kim Eng), Nick Legaspi (Deutsche Regis) and Gino Batac (Macquarie).

For fixed income, named as the best in foreign market coverage were ING Bank, Deutsche Bank and Citibank.

Honored in top three fixed income distinguish were Jun Trinidad (Citibank), Sammy Goh (Deutsche) and Andrew Zubiri (HSBC). Cited as the best fixed income salespersons were Joey Kingsley (ING), Jun Trinidad (Citibank) and Pearl Mercurio (HSBC).

ING's Charles Dino and Noel Sioson won the first and second place, respectively, as best fixed income trader for foreign currency while Jerome Ronda bagged the third place. The top three fixed income traders for local currency were Michael Dellio (Deutsche Bank), Lance Quinsay Barbosa (China Bank) and Dave Estacio (First Metro Investment Corp.).

Named as the best fixed income salespersons were Ruben Clavio (Citibank), followed by Ipek Chaliyan (Philippine National Bank). Tied for third place were Michelle Dizon (Security Bank), Wharth Arcos (HSBC) and Francis Chavez (ING).

Poll spending seen to boost Tanduay's sales

LICIO Yao's Tanduay Holdings Inc., the publicly listed parent of liquor manufacturer Tanduay Distillers, sees the growth in profits this year to match last year's strong performance.

"We expect to end the year like," Tanduay president and CEO Wilton T. Young told reporters at the sidelines of the company's annual shareholders' meeting on Friday.

Last year, Tanduay's profit nearly doubled to P1.1 billion, backing a dividend hike that despite lower revenue, as the company launched new product lines. This year, however, the company has not performed as well.

In the January to March period, Tanduay posted a net income of P307 million, down 5 percent from year-ago levels.

Young said the company hoped to recover its turnover through the introduction of more brands. Tanduay started 2012 with four new product lines that were not present in January of 2011. These were Ron Rhum and Rum, Tanduay Light, Manila Gins and ready-mixed cocktail drinks.

The company has said it expected first sales would improve starting this month—the traditional start of the 2013 election campaign season—a "more than normal" by Young's standard for political-driven selling effect.

"Historically the campaign really starts in July. Sales should bounce back," Young said on the first week.

To reduce costs two of the largest distillery lines in the country—those located in the Visayas and Absolut Distillers in Luzon.

Meanwhile, Tanduay's shareholders approved on Friday the issuance of P5 billion in fresh capital from Tanguay Holdings, the company's parent firm. Tanduay's authorized capital stock will be increased to P15 billion. Tanduay shares to shares to reach P1 each, to make way for the new funds.

The company earlier said it had earmarked P3 billion for capital expenditure this year, up by more than two-fold from the P600 million spent last year.

The bulk of the outlay would be spent on efforts to increase the production capacity at Tanduay's distillery in Cabu, Batangas.

He said this was part of a three-year, P2-billion expansion program that started last year.

Paolo G. Montecillo

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BUSINESS

Metro Manila growth slowed in '11, says NSCB

By Ana S. Roa

METRO Manila's economic growth slowed last year while Cavite in Mindanao had the most upbeat economy among all regions in the country, according to a report by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

The National Capital Region's economy grew by just 3.3 percent in 2011, slower than the 7.6 percent recorded in 2010 as dips were reported in all sectors, with the most notable cutbacks/downturns in the industry sector.

However, NCR still made up the bulk of the country's 3.9 percent growth last year, contributing 1.3 percentage points and recording the highest gross regional domestic product (GRDP) per capita at P175,064 in 2011, up from P171,949 in 2010.

Metro Manila's GRDP per capita was about three times the national GDP per capita of P52,982, the NSCB noted.

Cavite's economic growth, meanwhile, was the fastest of the 17 regions at 9.6 percent in 2011 from 5.4 percent in 2010.

"The region's impressive growth was fueled by the 9.7 percent expansion of its service sector and the rebound of its agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing sector to a growth of 3.4 percent in 2011 from a decline of 9.6 percent in 2010," the NSCB said.

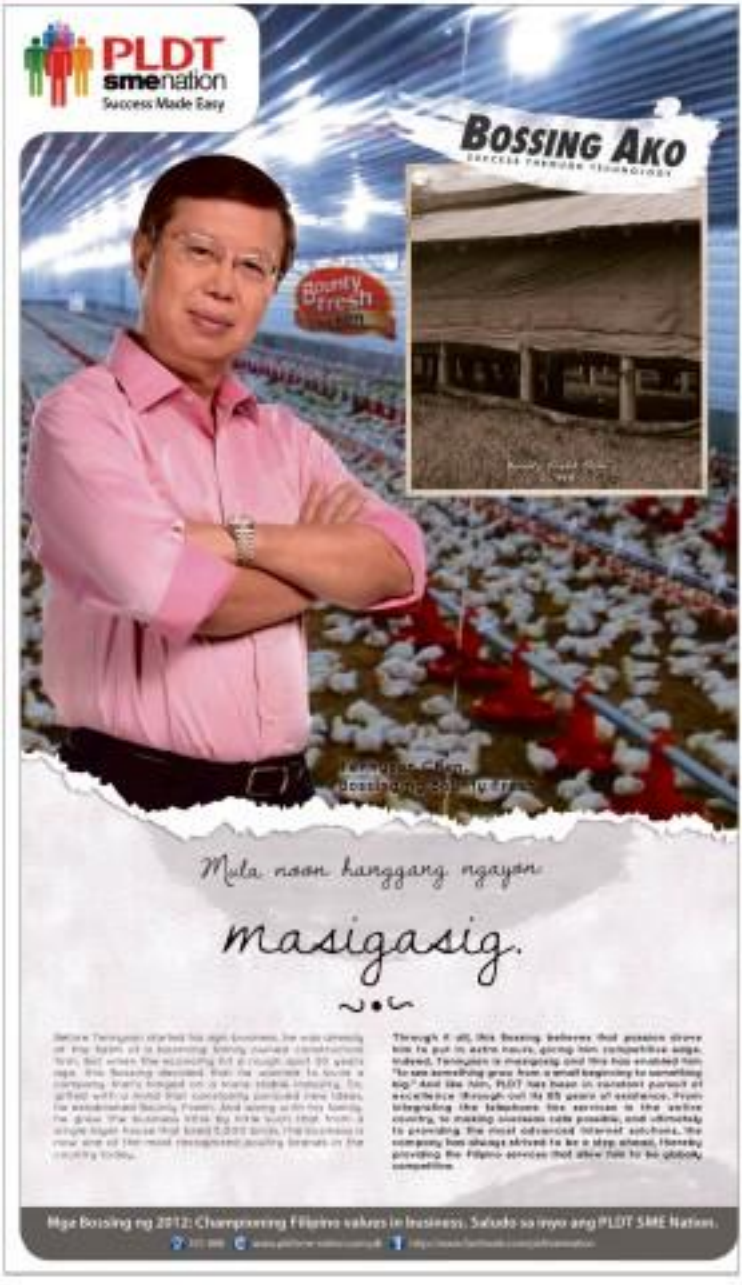
Other regions that recorded faster growth in 2011 were Central Mindanao (7.9 percent), Central Luzon (7.5 percent), Western Visayas (5.8 percent) and Cagayan Valley (5.4 percent).

Meanwhile, economic growth in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao slowed last year to 1 percent from 2.3 percent in 2010.

Of the five regional economies that recorded accelerated growth in 2011, Cagayan Valley registered the biggest jump from a decline of 1.1 percent in 2010 to a growth of 5.4 percent last year.

Next is Caraga (10.6 percent from 7.4 percent), followed by Soccsksargen (6 percent from 2 percent), Western Visayas (5.8 percent from 3.7 percent), and Mimaropa (2.5 percent from 1.1 percent).

Calabarzon, on the other hand, posted the most significant slowdown to 2.6 percent in 2011 from 11.1 percent in 2010.



Franchising sector girds for fast growth

THE LOCAL franchising industry expects growth in the next five years to be driven by goodlier-tradition businesses and new concepts in the services sector, said an official of the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA).

PFA chair emeritus Jimmy Lim said yesterday that there would be an "explosion" in the franchising industry in the next five years, with growth exceeding the usual 20 to 25 percent a year.

"We usually grow by 20 to 25 percent. I think this is the time of an explosion (more than 30 percent)," Lim told the Inquirer during the opening of the International Franchise Expo-Manila.

"Gasoline stations is one reason why we will have the explosion. In every gasoline station, you can have at least five, if not 6 to 7 franchisees. They really are the next generation of [most highly visited retail establishments]," Lim explained.

For the first time in the Philippines, the franchise expo featured a petrochemistry pavilion, which showcased concepts involving petroleum and related products.

The three-day franchising expo featured around 300 booths from some 200 companies and is expected to attract more than 50,000 visitors.

Besides food franchisees and retail concepts, an emerging trend is service franchises such as salons and spas, Lim said.

He also said that the Philippines was fertile ground for franchising, citing investors from franchisee-rich countries.

Franchising in the Philippines has always been good despite the global economic downturn and one reason that the industry is thriving is the country's relatively young population with the average age of a Filipino at 22 years, Lim said.

Another reason is the proficiency of the Filipinos in the English language.

"Franchising is basically trying to teach somebody else how to run a business. Teaching is communication. Communication is language, and English is the most spoken language in the world," Lim said.

—Ana S. Roa

General Tuna seeks tax relief

GENERAL Tuna Corp., the export arm of food company Century Pacific Group, is seeking tax breaks for its expansion project in Iloilo's Iloilo City, the Board of Investments (BOI) said in a notice published Friday.

The firm has applied for incentives with the BOI as an expanding export producer of frozen cooked tuna loins with an annual capacity of 971,727 cases.

Perks enjoyed by BOI-registered enterprises include an income tax holiday and exemption from paying duties on imported equipment.

The producer of General Tuna includes canned tuna brand, powdered and frozen tuna.

Its plant was initially located in Tagaytay City before it moved its facility to General Santos City in 1999 to take advantage of the city's proximity to the supply of fresh tuna.

General Santos City is now prime tuna fishing grounds such as the Moro-Celebes Ocean and the waters between Southern Philippines and Indonesia, extending the availability and freshness of fish.

The Century food group last year teamed up with leading global tuna supplier Thai Union and local fishing giant Frabelle to build a $20-million tuna processing plant in Papua New Guinea.

The new plant in Papua New Guinea will have an initial daily capacity of 120 metric tons but plans are in place to eventually upgrade it to 300 to 350 MT.

—Ana S. Roa

BUSINESS

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BSP seen to keep rates steady this year

BPI economist says recent monetary easing 'makes sense'

By Doris C. Dumlao

MYTH: Bringing down its key interest rates to a new record low to curb speculative flows that could disrupt the country's economic momentum, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will likely keep those rates steady during its next policy rate-setting on Sept. 13.

This was the view of Bank of the Philippine Island economist Emilio Neri Jr., who was the first to make a call for a reduction in the BSP's overnight borrowing rate by 25 basis points to an unprecedented low of 3.75 percent. His call was issued even before the BSP actually hinted about further monetary easing, which indeed was made during the latest monetary-setting last Thursday.

"Going forward, the BSP (Monetary Board) could pause at 3.75 percent on their September meeting but further cuts cannot be counted out if the euro-zone debt crisis worsens or any similar event re-emerges," Neri said in a research note issued late Thursday.

The BSP's monetary easing on Thursday was the third policy rate cut for this year and was a surprise move given the consensus expectation that the local central bank would keep the rates on hold.

"This follow-through policy action makes a lot of sense," Neri said, noting that a single-quarter of above-average real GDP (gross domestic product) growth would not be enough reason for the BSP to keep in line on the brakes. He noted that last year's sub-4 percent GDP growth could, after all, be considered "dismal" for an economy whose population was growing at 2.2-2.35 percent a year.

Neri said Thursday's move was designed primarily to temper speculative flows into the country.

"By discouraging self-fulfilling speculative flows through a rate cut, the BSP is making sure that overseas Filipinos, exporters and the BPOs (business process outsourcing) are not punished by a rapid nominal currency appreciation against it under trading partners," Neri said.

The economists noted that the peso had posted double-digit gains against the euro.

Neri said the BSP's policy move was also consistent with the BSP's inflation-targeting policy framework. "It doesn't make sense to have a one-sided target if you repeatedly breaches one side," he said.

On the impact of this fresh interest rate, Neri said local governments would remain constructive as market rates were likely to align with the new benchmark. On interest rates per shares, it results in capital appreciation for holders of existing bonds.

He said Philippine equities and global Philippine stock/bonds (SOBs) were likely to continue outperforming their Asian emerging market counterparts as the likelihood of GDP growth outperformance in the second half of 2012 and beyond has improved.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
PAMBANSANG PANGKERSAAN NG PATUBIG
(National Irrigation Administration)
IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE
Apuran del Norte, Dungao del Norte and Dinagat Island
Hinatuan, Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte

INVITATION TO BID

This National Irrigation Administration through the GAA FY2012 allocations intends to apply the total sum of Seventy Two Million Two Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Pesos Only (₱ 72,265,940.00) being the total amount of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as payment for the below contract/s being with corresponding information duly indicated to access of the ABC and to be funded under the General Appropriations Act.

The National Irrigation Administration now invites bids for the project of Dungao Pagatin Bridge which should have completed within six (6) months from the date of commencement and receipt of Notice to Proceed. Description, particularly in Section II, is mentioned in Bidders (ITB) General Provisions Number 3.

PROJECT CONTRACT NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WORK	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	DURATION
(CY-12) 2012 LOT 1 CIVIL BID-01	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS (CIVIL WORKS)	₱ 72,265,940.00	6 CALENDAR DAYS

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using lump sum/unit price/time contract as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizen/sole proprietorship, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy five percent (75%) citizens or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

NIA-CARAGA region applies the One Bidder One Contract each policy with at least 50% physical accomplishment of the ongoing similar contracted works.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the National Irrigation Administration, Caraga Regional Office, Butuan City, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday (working days only).

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from July 30, 2012 to August 3, 2012 from the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos Only (₱ 15,000.00). Interested Bidders must submit first a Letter of Intent together with the Eligibility documents for evaluation. Only prequalified bidders and who passed the pre-qualification criteria are allowed to purchase Bid Documents.

The National Irrigation Administration will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on August 6, 2012 at the National Irrigation Administration, Caraga Regional Office, Conference Room, Butuan, Butuan City at 2:00 P.M. which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents and shall have existing contracts with NIA with less than 50% physical accomplishment.

Bids must be delivered on or before August 20, 2012 at the National Irrigation Administration, Caraga Regional Office, Conference Room, Butuan, Butuan City, at 10:00 AM. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of Cash or Manager's Check duly issued by a universal or commercial bank and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 15.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who chooses to attend at National Irrigation Administration, Caraga Regional Office, Conference Room, Butuan, Butuan City. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul or to suspend the bidding process, and to disqualify bidders at any time prior to contract awards, without thereby incurring any liability to affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

MAGNATE P. GAMOTEO
Acting BAC Chairman
National Irrigation Administration
Regional Office
Butuan, Butuan City
Tel. No. 342-0000

(Sgd.) **MAGNATE P. GAMOTEO**
Acting BAC Chairman

Noted:

(Sgd.) **ROBERTO S. MORANTE**
Regional Manager

(PR) - July 28, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
PAMBANSANG PANGKERSAAN NG PATUBIG
(National Irrigation Administration)
IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE
Apuran del Norte, Dungao del Norte and Dinagat Island
Hinatuan, Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte

INVITATION TO BID

This National Irrigation Administration through the GAA FY2012 allocations intends to apply the total sum of **Seventy Two Million Two Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Pesos Only (₱ 72,265,940.00)** being the total amount of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as payment for the below contract/s being with corresponding information duly indicated to access of the ABC and to be funded under the General Appropriations Act.

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PROJECT CONTRACT NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WORK	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	DURATION
(CY-12) 2012 LOT 1 CIVIL	Improvement Dungao Pagatin Pagatin Irrigation Facilities	₱ 72,265,940.00	180 CD
LABOR TASK BID-01	Improvement Dungao Pagatin Pagatin Irrigation Facilities	P 8,632,313.00	90 CD

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using lump sum/unit price/time contract as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizen/sole proprietorship, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy five percent (75%) citizens or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

NIA-CARAGA region applies the One Bidder One Contract each policy with at least 50% physical accomplishment of the ongoing similar contracted works.

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Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who chooses to attend at National Irrigation Administration, Caraga Regional Office, Conference Room, Butuan, Butuan City. Late bids shall not be accepted.

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For further information, please refer to:

MAGNATE P. GAMOTEO
Acting BAC Chairman
National Irrigation Administration
Regional Office
Butuan, Butuan City
Tel. No. 342-0000

(Sgd.) **MAGNATE P. GAMOTEO**
Acting BAC Chairman

Noted:

(Sgd.) **ROBERTO S. MORANTE**
Regional Manager

(PR) - July 28, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Pambansang Pangkersaan ng Patubig
(National Irrigation Administration)
Regional Office No. XIII
Butuan City

INVITATION TO BID

(PR) - July 28, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Pambansang Pangkersaan ng Patubig
(National Irrigation Administration)
Regional Office No. XIII
Butuan City

INVITATION TO BID

(PR) - July 28, 2012

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(PR) - July 28, 2012

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Department of Agriculture
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INVITATION TO BID

(PR) - July 28, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Pambansang Pangkersaan ng Patubig
(National Irrigation Administration)
Regional Office No. XIII
Butuan City

INVITATION TO BID

(PR) - July 28, 2012

BATANGAS II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City

INVITATION TO BID

Project: Bidding for the Supply & Delivery of 69kV/Compatible Kiosk Type Protein (50 KSD)
PR# 0000-0000

Date/s: July 30, 2012 (Pre-bidding Conference) 9:00 A.M.
August 20, 2012

Where: AUDITORIUM Hall House Conference Room Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City

Cost of Bid Documents: Php 3,000.00

Those interested Bidders shall bring the following Pre-Qualification Documents:

1. Business Registration to DTI or SEC
2. Permit to Operate (Mayor's Permit)
3. Comprehensive Company Profile
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. Valid Identification Tax Return
6. Statement of Any Checks Issued Which Are Bank's Dishonored, etc.
7. Notarized authorization from the company being represented (for Representatives)

For inquiries, Prospective Bidders may call PBAC Secretary, May Ann Grace A. Villaluz at (043) 756-4027 local 108.

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ING. ZOILO L. SUBIDO**
Procurement Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson

(Sgd.) **ENGR. OCTAVIO B. MENDOZA**
Assistant General Manager

(PR) - July 28, 2012

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NOTICE TO ALL PNSLAI MEMBERS

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS & LOAN ASSN. INC. WILL HOLD ITS SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON AUGUST 11, 2013 AT CPO'S CLUBHOUSE, 3RD. STREET, NAVAL STATION JOSE FRANCISCO, PORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG CITY. REGISTRATION WILL START AT 8:00 A.M.

ALL MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND.

COMMO DANTE Z RUIZ AFP (RET)
President

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 367 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
JUNG YOUNG SUK LEE INC. Unit 405 DMCI Center 451 Sumulong St. Antipolo St., Mandaluyong City	Lu Hua Ryan Korean	Administrative Assistant
SEIKO MIC PHILIPPINES CORP. Unit 3-A 3/F Cebu Holdings Center 2801 Cebu Business Park, Brgy. San Kalim, Makati City	Jin Su Yi Korean	Administrative Manager
ARCUS PHILIPPINES INC. Regis Prestigieuport Center, Makati Ave. Northeast Ave., Makati City	John Francis Indian	Senior Manager – Workforce Management
HASTEN FREIGHT CONTAINER LEASING CO., INC. 2nd Floor Cebu Holdings Center, Makati, Manila, Manila	Richard Brian Bailey American	Vice President – Philippine Branch
RAD TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 2/F The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Flyte Ann Chinese	Customer Service Personnel
BARON INTERNATIONAL SERVICES Unit 1101 Oxford Corporate Tower E. Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila	Markus Gaubert German	Consultant
RAD TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 2/F The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Menggan Yuan Chinese	Finance Customer Service
ICSA REPRESENTATION PHILIPPINES, INC. 107 Alabang Corporate Center, Km. 23 West Service Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Subash Mantha Jaya Kanting Joshi	Country Sales Representative (CSO) President
RAD TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 2/F The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Shengjie Liang Chinese	Marketing Personnel
VILLAGE MANAGEMENT CORP. NANCY CORP. 2/F Ambon Square, 7 Ambon St., Ortigas Ctr, San Antonio, Pasig City	Kyungsook Kang Sadie of KOR Korean	General Manager
RAD TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 2/F The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Shuliang Hu Chinese	Marketing Personnel
BP JABE E-SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F 11 cor Bldg., No. 10 St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City	Nidhi Bansal Indian	Operations Consultant
BP JABE E-SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F 11 cor Bldg., No. 10 St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City	Sandra Isabel Sanchidrian Rodriguez Portuguese	Customer Service Representative – Portuguese Speaking
BRIDGEWATER LEISURE MANAGEMENT INC. 12/F NEC Bldg., Senson Blvd., Legaspi, Makati City	Fei-Hua Chu Taiwanese	Junior Business Development Executive
ROLA WEALTH CONNECTIONS, INC. 2/F Alcantara Tower, 310 Ave. cor. 18th St., Crescent Park West Bonifacio, Taguig City	Nanami Amikur Kondo Japanese	Senior Vice President – Group Operations and Quality
KUSINA SUN CORPAL NANCY, INC. 5/F Philam Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. Makati St., Makati City	Gab Kai Li Malaysian	Customer Service (Chinese Speaking)
SEGARA PHILIPPINES, USA, INC. 3/F The Salcedo Tower, 169 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Kyu Nam Jo Korean	Maintenance Manager
SYNTEL ASIA, INC. 28/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Bhavesh Suresh Bhatia Indian	Unit – Customer Service Agent
ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORPORATION Mother Ignacia St. cor. Sgt. Esguerra Ave., Quezon City	Hyung Sung Hong Korean	Talent
ACCENTURE INC. 10/F Corporate 1, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Rajesh Padmanabhi Indian	System Analyst
HUBWORLD INC. 3/F Greater Life Tower II, PIC Building, Mandaluyong City	Christopher Everdon Rose Brazilian	English/ Portuguese Speaking Supplier Onboarding Manager
CISCO AEX, INC. 30th Active Operations Center, Manila Domestic Airport, Pasay City	Marco Antonio Gomez Verdasco Mexican	Liaison
HUBWORLD INC. 10/F Greater Life, Tower II, PIC Building, Mandaluyong City	Jocelyn Ramirez Martin Filipino	Interpreter Translator – French Speaker
ROMERO, INC. 2/F Makati Rattan, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati, Manila, Manila	Ryan Paul Bautista American	General Manager
ATR PHILIPPINES, INC. 12/F Petron Mega Plaza Bldg., 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Tai Gang Chinese	HR Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN N. MACABANTAD, CESO III
Regional Director

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
SOFTWARE ONE INC. 3901 3/F Net Square Bldg., 31st Ave. cor. 3rd St., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio, Taguig City	Nemec Radoslav	Product Analyst
EFFICIENT SERVICES CORPORATION 15/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Suzana Indonesian	Customer Service Officer (E-Commerce)
LENOVO (PHILIPPINES), INC. 23/F Corporate Center, 6139 Ilaine St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Ma Chao Hubei Chinese	Project Director
EFFICIENT SERVICES CORPORATION 15/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Xue Chen Chinese	Customer Service Officer
LENOVO (PHILIPPINES), INC. 23/F Corporate Center, 6139 Ilaine St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Sayani Jeharsinh Sikhwadi Indian	Warehouse Manager
EFFICIENT SERVICES CORPORATION 15/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Wayo Tei Nigel Wayo Vincentian	Customer Service Officer
SD DONNELLEY PHILIPPINES INC. 21 East Gate Center, 126 EDSA Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City	Nanako Ekonno British	Assistant Vice President – Human Resources
EFFICIENT SERVICES CORPORATION 15/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Tania Jordan Indonesian	Customer Service Officer (E-Commerce)
BP JABE E-SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. Apo Diaz Bldg., No. 10 St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City	Hugo Lamprea Anne Estevens De Silva Portuguese	Customer Service Representative – Portuguese Speaking
JPO CIVIL ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION 2/F Unit 2 Asian Global Corporate Center, Lido Vargas Ave., Filipro Center, Pasig City	Yusuke Amano Japanese	Supervisor
EFFICIENT SERVICES CORPORATION 15/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Ko Qi Ni Chinese	Customer Service Officer
EFFICIENT SERVICES CORPORATION 15/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Hoang Khanh Duy Vietnamese	Service Quality Officer
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 5/F Philam Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Fuji Chen Chinese	Consultant
SUTHERLAND GLOBAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. 12/F Philippine Cooperative Center, Vol.1 Triangle Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Jennifer Katherine Isaac Greenagh British	Business Director
BELMITE FRESH FOOD INC. 17th Floors Rose St., Ortigas City	Philip Michael Reynolds British	Vice President for Food Technology & Business Development
ICM CITY NETWORK, INC. Unit GA-GU Summit One Tower, 530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	Takaro Hirotsuki Japanese	Multi-Lingual Processing Engineering Manager
MY DIAMOND DEVELOPMENT 23-A Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Sungmo Hyo Korean	Specialty Staff
TELEPERFORMANCE SERVICES, INC. Bl. 11 Lot 33 Commercial Ave., New Bgrd. Cavite City	Kyungho Song Korean	Sales Manager
SYNTELLIGENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES PHP. LTD., INC. 14/F Rufino North Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Atul Sabharwal Indian	Assistant Vice President – Operations
SYNTELLIGENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES PHP. LTD., INC. 14/F Rufino North Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sanjeev Kumar Jha Indian	Senior Manager – Operations

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Black barong film festival

ON 7TH 2ND YEAR, THE BLACK Barong Film Festival is coming to break the mould with its different breed, this time focusing on "Pilipinong Handaan". The film festival opens on the 12th of October 2013, at the San Sebastian College-Recoletos Manila Campus featuring Diego Cera, a friggin' youthful, more extravagant and boundless showcase of enchantment. The mailing label is expected to film year's event.

Inspired by Berlin's "Kidd Film Fest" for children, 10 inspirational short films from the University of Santo Tomas, De La Salette College-Dasmarinas will close off the series but unwittingly inspired visions of children that can transform an adult's spectacle.

According to Bb Miss Boomerdom - film and TV directors' profession and the originator of The Black Barong Film Festival the event would be a great venue for opportunity for its participants as he entered forty by sending the best films which he thinks will cut to the taste of international audience.

Another great thing for this year's festival is that they anticipate audiences from different orphanage who will take part in the event by film viewing.

Participants are preparing the screenplays. Trailers and Posters will be the bulletins on the festival September 2013. On October 8, a press conference will strike the spotlight as each production promotes their films for the event.

ALGON
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HOPE

ONE ALGON PLACE FOUNDATION offers its FACILITIES, PROGRAM, AND SERVICES

The model consultancy is home to its professionals pursuing in various addiction, emotional disturbances, mental disabilities and behavioral problems. The have current models in the comprehensive and treatment related services. The program is open up and has its diversity of models. Thus, the need for models are used to finance behavioral health resource and development facility that could cater to the addressing these problems. This is where One ALGON Place Foundation, Inc. comes in, to extend its assistance to the government and non-government organizations through its medical assistance, programs and services as well as its facilities.

The Algon Alley covering of 13,640 m² facilities under one roof space and services to serve. The environment is open and home like. It is composed of three main areas: Area One, With a total area measurement of 1990sq. with a multitude of 56 comfortable and compassionate staff with 12 buildings housing, dorm and hotel rooms, kitchen and mess hall, a hospital, 2 pavilions, a fully equipped functional station, a canteen room, counselling room, a chapel, gym and tennis library, music room, tennis court, billiard hall, basketball and a ball court, swimming pool, a jacuzzi, and a beauty parlor at that. The center occupies a 1 hectare lot in a secluded place in Montalban, Rizal. Once you arrive the facility, you will enjoy the beautiful landscaped gardens, refers to the quietness and the prosperous of the facility. It provides that environment and one is of laidback there to peace and happiness in a safe world. The Physiognomy is unique and comprehensive. It covers psychotherapy and based on discipline, desire, needs and skills. Health education, Physical education, Living skills, Values and spiritualities formation, personality development, vocational skills and the ability to adapt to the environment. The program is open to all those who are in need of any addiction in the community using the Holistic modules. The organization is open to all the center students or collaborating. You can see in their face confidence and self-esteem, a motivation to be free to use.

The organization is also open to work hand-in-hand, united with vocational and social care management. The organization also considerations both educational, medical, psychological, vocational and spiritual dimensions of treatment. The facility is also open to the community through its counselling and health education services, workshops and workshop trainings for centers, students and non-students, and other activities among family, colleagues, students and friends.

All services are provided on basis fee facility for the addicted patients and the mentally disabled is accredited by the Department of Health. Apart from its advocacy in treatment and rehabilitation, it also provides also the following services: 1. Referral counseling Laboratories, On the Job Training, Intervention skills and Intervention programs 4. students of Health and Psychology, Social Work, Nursing, Medicine, Psychiatry and Occupational Therapy. 5. Employees that will help field workers so that they will better understand the individuals they serve through in-service mental health, from psychiatric care and home visits to those of children through the support of the Local Government Units. 6. Guidance counselors will be educated or counseled about their experience in dealing with their students' problems through the following services done by our Psychiatrist. 4. Participants in the Drug Rehabilitation Program (DRP) referred through the NGO/PO 5. Students affected by the prevailing family problems and situations that will help them resolve students' behavioral problems like bullying. 7. Provide our private psychiatric services for the purpose of extending the mental and emotional care of an ailing or disabled individual. 8. Provide counseling and team building to both teachers/parents. 9. Consults Case conferences.

For Treatment and Rehabilitation, the mental facility Hospital is located at one corner of the area from the Psychiatric Ward, Psychiatric Clinic and Psychiatric Emergency Room. It is a school like facility where patients are guided at both academic and vocational. There are "Mission of ALGON" that have occurred to become counselors to assist their students' problems through the following services done by our Psychiatrist. 4. Participants in the Drug Rehabilitation Program (DRP) referred through the NGO/PO 5. Students affected by the prevailing family problems and situations that will help them resolve students' behavioral problems like bullying. 7. Provide our private psychiatric services for the purpose of extending the mental and emotional care of an ailing or disabled individual. 8. Provide counseling and team building to both teachers/parents. 9. Consults Case conferences.

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Psychiatrists, friends and interested parties may contact Shalin or Cel at 02/8466301 / 09999232307 Globe, 09175324577 / 09173183030 Sun, 09338765878 or email algonalley@hotmail.com not later than Saturday, July 20, 2013 for the Endorsement of the Dr. Balanon 5th Floor Building or One Algon Place Foundation Brgy. Mamala Cubacub, Cogeo on August 4, 2013 www.onealgonplace.com.ph

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS
BAC SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	One (1) lot – Supply, delivery and installation of the following System Furniture for the proposed renovation of BSP Offices and Training Rooms at the 30th to 33rd Floors of the BSP Malolos Building, per BSP's Technical Drawings and Specifications: a. ... with Training Table Chairs; and b. ... with Visitor Chairs
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	₱ 3,100,000.00
Delivery Period	Within ninety (90) calendar days after receipt of a Notice to Proceed (NTP)

Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years prior to the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The bidder must have completed at least one (1) contract similar to the project, the value of which, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. The Bidder's Omnibus Sworn Statement (or similar document) must indicate that the bidder has complied with this requirement.

All suppliers wishing to participate in the bidding must be accredited by the BSP. Prospective bidders may secure the Bidding Documents from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ₱ 1,000.00 and may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the BSP website (www.bsp.gov.ph). The complete set of the Bidding Documents may also be viewed at the BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Multi-Purpose Building, Malolos Complex, Malolos City, Bulacan.

Bids must be duly received by the BAC Secretariat at the above address on or before 10:00 A.M. of 31 July 2013. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bidding Documents. Bid opening shall be on the same date at 10:00 A.M. at the BAC Secretariat. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Ms. Marivic T. De Guzman
BAC Secretariat
Tel. No. 791-6705
Fax No. 791-6711

(Sgd.) ARMANDO A. SUMMAY
Chairman

(PDI – July 20, 2013)

boi BUREAU OF INVESTMENTS
dti DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **WILLIAMSON INC.** with office address at Walter Mart Building, Biñ1 A CORA, Quezon City is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New Operator of Tourist Accommodation facility (**ASHCROFT MONRACO HOTEL, CITY**) on a Pioneer status, with projected rate location at Lot No. 4, Block 20, Fifth Avenue corner 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of the publication.

(Sgd.) **EVARISTO M. CASAYAO**
Director
Infrastructure and
Services-Oriented
Industries Department

(PDI – July 20, 2013)

boi BUREAU OF INVESTMENTS
dti DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **ANGEL BUILDERS, INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New Operator of Gold Storage Facilities of a capacity of 625,000 bags per year on a Non-Pioneer Status with project site located in Brgy. Bayanin, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija.

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication/posting.

(Sgd.) **RESTITO F. ARCINEGA JR.**
Director
Resource-Based
Industries Department

(PDI – July 20, 2013)

need a job?

Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation

INVITATION TO BID
for the Supply and Delivery of Three (3) Units Christmas Food Packages Basket (ITB No. 07-21-2013)

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders to the following public bidding for the Supply and Delivery of Three (3) Units Christmas Food Packages (ITB No. 07-21-2013).

Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (All Packages Are Retail Transactions) NOTE: Bidders may bid on one (1) lot only	Delivery Schedule	Bidding Fee
LOT 1 **Nine Hundred (900) pieces** Regular Christmas Food Package	One Million Five Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Pesos **(PhP 1,584,000.00)**	The complete contents of **900 pieces** is to be provided in **Twelve (12) Deliveries** of **Seventy-five (75) Regular/Identical Christmas Food Packages** which will commence upon receipt of Notice to Proceed from the contracted **Bidder** and shall be completed in **one Delivery** as per Notice to Proceed	Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos and Twenty-Five Centavos **(PhP 2,500.25)**
LOT 2 **Eight Hundred (800) pieces** Christmas Food Package	Two Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Pesos **(PhP 2,726,000.00)**		Two Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Eight Pesos **(PhP 2,288.00)**
LOT 3 **Seven Hundred (700) pieces** Christmas Food Package	Two Million Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Pesos **(PhP 2,789,000.00)**		Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Nine Pesos and Ninety-Five Centavos **(PhP 2,759.95)**

Source of Funds: Internally Funded

The bidding is open to all suppliers, provided that the winning bidder shall comply with requirements and PAGCOR guidelines in the conduct of contracts. Interested suppliers must secure a copy of the Bidding Documents from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Department (PD), 3rd Floor PAGCOR Annex, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-8913.

Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years prior to the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders. Bidders will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA).

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) citizenship or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 9184 and subject to commonwealth Act 138.

Bids must be duly received by the BAC Secretariat through manual submission at the office address indicated above on or before 10:00 A.M. of August 6, 2013. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bidding Documents.

Bid opening shall be on the same date at 10:00 A.M. at the BAC Secretariat. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Ms. Jocelyn S. Lumbao
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI – July 20, 2013)

Republic of the Philippines
TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
Romulo Blvd., San Vicente, Tarlac City
Telefax No.: (045) 982-0049
Website: www.tsu.edu.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

The Tarlac State University, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified manufacturers/dealers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project	PURCHASE OF VARIOUS COMPUTER EQUIPMENT
Approved Budget for the Contract	₱1,931,243.70

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project's total cost. The Bidding Documents as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the "pass/fail" criteria, Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Preliminary Examination of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting July 20, 2013
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	August 1, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. Venue: Audio-Visual Room, 3rd Floor, Admin. Building, Tarlac State University, Tarlac City
3.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 13, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. Venue: Audio-Visual Room, 3rd Floor, Admin. Building, Tarlac State University, Tarlac City

Bid Documents will be available only at the address stated below upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Six Thousand Pesos (₱ 6,000.00) to the TSU Cashier.

The Tarlac State University reserves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

For further information, please refer to:

Ms. Marivic T. De Guzman
BAC Secretariat
Tarlac State University
(045) 982-0139

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **DR. ARMANDO P. ORENSE**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 20, 2013)

Republic of the Philippines
TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
Romulo Blvd., San Vicente, Tarlac City
Telefax No.: (045) 982-0049
Website: www.tsu.edu.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS APPLIANCES, FURNITURE AND CABINETS

The Tarlac State University, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified manufacturers/dealers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project	PURCHASE OF VARIOUS APPLIANCES, FURNITURE AND CABINETS
Approved Budget for the Contract	₱ 1,131,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project's total cost. The Bidding Documents as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the "pass/fail" criteria, Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting July 20, 2013
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	August 1, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. Venue: Audio-Visual Room, 3rd Floor, Admin. Building, Tarlac State University, Tarlac City
3.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 13, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. Venue: Audio-Visual Room, 3rd Floor, Admin. Building, Tarlac State University, Tarlac City

Bid Documents will be available only at the address stated below upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos (₱ 3,000.00) to the TSU Cashier.

The Tarlac State University reserves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

For further information, please refer to:

Ms. Marivic T. De Guzman
BAC Secretariat
Tarlac State University
(045) 982-0139

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **DR. LINDA LA P. ORE**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 20, 2013)

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
on the 4th Death Anniversary of

Plenio S. Brion, Sr.

of San Pablo City and Quezon City
who passed away on July 21, 2009

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches:

St. Isidore Catholic Church – Iloilo City, Co.	5:00 p.m.
St. Andrew Parish – Cubao, Q.C.	10:00 a.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice – UP Diliman, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
San Isidro Labrador Parish – Batasan Hills, Quezon City	6:30 p.m.
San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish – Tuktok Bella Homes, Quezon City	8:00 a.m.
Parish of Saint Paul the First Hermit – San Pablo City	8:15 a.m. 5:00 p.m.

We, his wife Imelda Salagubang-Brion, sons Plenio, Jr. and Phebe III, daughters-in-law Corazon Llanderal-Brion and Cristeben Faraldo-Brion, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me.
– John 14:6

Message of Thanks

[illegible]

Mr. Cornelius Faustino Albert Lagmay

[illegible]

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Inquire Obituaries

Obituary Requirements:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Two valid identification cards (1 ID w/ photo)

Rate Information:
Regular of 7 days – ...
Rush Assistance – 24 hours – ...
Free Soft Copy

Lito Cesar D. Magpoong

PROPERTY

8 trends to affect housing purchases

By Tonyo B. Salazar

BUYERS MADE rush to book projects. What factors, therefore, would influence buyers' demand for housing in the future? What obstacles will affect the real estate purchases of Pinoys? Here are 8 trends to look out for to determine the industry's forecast:

1 Overseas Filipinos' financial situation is a big global economic concern. Chua-Bi, Cordero Jr., Joann Lang Ladalde Lewchalo's head of research, consulting and valuation, said the recent uptake in real estate purchases has primarily been demand driven. Hence, the less than optimistic recovery of the US economy and the spending debt concerns in the Eurozone may affect job security in these areas, and may affect the earnings of overseas Filipinos which have helped finance these purchases.

Enrique Soriano, Avanzo program director for real estate and venture advisor for Mong-Bautista Business Advisors, agreed that there has definitely been pressure on overseas Filipinos.

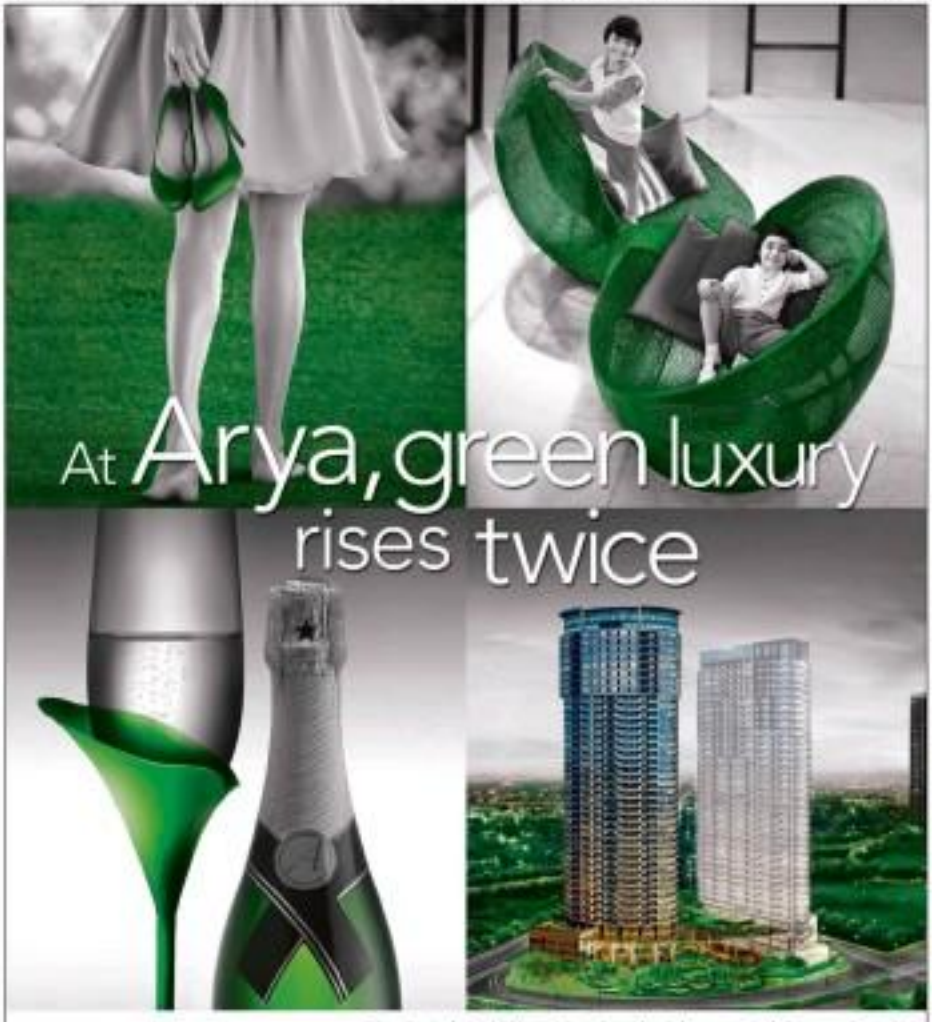
"Absolutely depressed economies in Europe and North America are creating pressure on the local property market. OFWs are sending less money as a result of limited opportunities in the host countries. In our study, the growth of OF remittances has declined to single digit levels, with Middle East and Europe declining by 15 percent and North America exhibiting a big drop of 40 percent in remittances. Only Asia continues to remain robust, exhibiting double digit remittances at 12 percent," Soriano said.

Julius Guevara, Colliers International's executive director for international advisory and head of consultancy and research, said that "if the economic conditions in Europe and the United States continue to deteriorate, thereby weakening the downturn in China, then there would be an effect on economies in some way." Colliers International is a global real estate services.

Guevara added, "However, it was seen during the global financial crisis in 2008 when businesses were steady despite a slowdown, then we could also expect the same resiliency in times of trouble. Filipinos abroad have no qualms taking second or two-third jobs just to meet their financial obligations back home."

Victor Asuncion, CEMEC executive di

(TRENDS B11)



FROM EYESORE TO SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

Developer at the forefront of going 'green'

By Theresa E. Samaniego

THE PREFERENCE and bias for everything sustainable is being felt all over the world and the Philippines is no exception.

And such demand has led developers in Asia towards that direction of putting up "green" projects.

Upscale property developer Alphaland Corp., for one, is certainly among the frontrunners.

Its latest development, Alphaland Tower at 6788 Ayala Avenue, whose office units will be turned over next year, has transformed what used to be an eyesore into a presentable green building.

Alphaland Tower is a 34-storey traditional office tower that will rise right in the heart of the Makati Central Business District.

"It is coming up in the last remaining properties on Ayala Avenue. Its actually in eyesore before but now we are hoping that it will become one of the most beautiful, state-of-the-art office towers in the area once it opens by January 2012," said Luis Miguel R. Villanueva, project director, Alphaland.

Designed by Hong Kong's Meng & Ongpeng and a number of Filipino architects, Alphaland Tower has a gross floor area of 48,000 square meters with a generous floor area allocation of 1,100-1,600 sq m for each level. A two-story glass ceiling will envelope its ground lobby.

Preacertified gold rating

Registered with the United States Green Building Council's Green Building Rating System, LEED, Alphaland Tower recently earned a precertified Gold rating for Core and Shell construction. That means materials designed for building elements, which envelope the structure, building envelope and the HVAC system.

"We as a new developer we wanted to be unique and to get out of the traditional way of building. We wanted to be more of a sustainable type of developer who will not just build the way the others do. We want to make an impact...so we looked into the US-GBC's green building standards and we thought it was a good fit," he disclosed.

And while the whole tower is equipped with environmentally sustainable technologies which will allow future tenants to drive down operating costs, Alphaland is continuously employing methods and technologies to further meet the five categories set by the council that "provide a clear blueprint for acquiring the Gold LEED certification."

Such features include the unique curtain wall system to reduce solar heat gain inside the building, effectively lowering energy consumption for air conditioning, and the advanced air filter technology to improve air quality and occupant well-being and productivity inside the tower.

5 categories

"We are continuously working on the five categories that would allow future tenants to drive down operating costs and achieve total wellness and well-being," Villanueva noted.

Meanwhile, another LEED feature of the building, according to Villanueva is the use of low flow plumbing fixtures that would allow future tenants at least 20 percent of savings based on normal consumption.

"Also during construction we monitor and make sure that we don't pollute the environment, so whether it's preventing the discharge typhoon during construction, or controlling dust from spreading outside the construction area, we make sure those are being handled well," he said.

Moreover, Alphaland ensures that only environment friendly and materials stained oils will be used for the interior finishes.

There will be designated parking spaces and bus stops to encourage car pooling. Also another advantage is its close proximity to several walkways and Ayala MRT.

"In Alphaland Tower, reducing your carbon footprint goes hand in hand with reducing your operating expenses. The environment is not the only winner when we make the most of the money spent on utilities while letting them work in utmost comfort," Villanueva claimed.

The whole tower will likewise be jointed with high-grade fiber optic cabling. Most prominent GreenGrowl infrastructure ensures adaptability to future innovations, and is expected to lure both ICT and non-ICT companies that rely heavily on modern telecommunications for their operations.

According to Villanueva, the ground and second levels of Alphaland Tower will be offered as prime commercial space while a three-story penthouse will be available for single lease. The penthouse meanwhile will have its own rooftop gardens and lounge areas, making it the most desirable office space in the country.

"We also know that the medium-sized market are looking at sustainable buildings as part of their standards and we will make sure will meet their needs and be as par with the world's market," he concluded.

THE PREMIER address of Alphaland Tower is definitely a plus for its tenants.

Putting culture into design

DESIGN DIMENSION

Isabel Berenguer Aizcorbe

IN A WORLD that has become so global, where do we find our identity? It was assumed any distance and economic disparity was still agents speaking in distinct, exaggerated, American accents. Yet, we Filipinos speak with an American English accent rather than a British English accent, but then sounded like they grew up in, like you know, yes, Los Angeles.

Design, like language, has a distinct way of defining identity. It grows from context and develops as individuals certain characteristics that become exclusive to their kind. All that has ever been designed has expressed aesthetics from its context: geography, history, climate and people. In essence, the aesthetics of our existence is defined by our culture.

Successful

The marketing concept of "branding" has been so successful because it capitalizes on the perception that "we are what we have been designed to look like," using powerful visual characteristics as a vehicle for expressing the essence of things. But in the modern world where boundaries are blurred and technology has made time zones negligible, you have locations, partly made, just like everyone else in the world.

Global cultural envelope have created a crisis of character, for how does one embrace the workings of international design concepts, materials and technologies, and not lose that gaping lost in its mass identification? Airplanes and environments are permanent installations that cater to the collective and define the population for whom it is built. The attempt to modernize sometimes abandons identity although there are truly many ways to interpret culture and construct with contemporary design flavor.

Take for example Santiago Calatrava's La Ciudad de Las Artes y Las Ciencias which may appear to be a generic avant garde creation of Brit (Norman Foster which opens shows look, but apparently employed the organic ad universal structures and detailing that spread in Colombia the Gaudi (neo-classic) and developed it in Barcelona.

Interchangeable

On the other hand, Frank Gehry's Walt Disney Concert Hall in LA, and his Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain—both undeniably beautiful structures—are entirely designed and are essentially interchangeable. They are generic and could in fact be built anywhere else in the world.

The modern international design is not the only one with the identity crisis. Traditional architecture has been displaced some of history as well, with period designs expressed in places where they had no historical connection or no contextual relationship. Interestingly enough, while locally bred and cultivated, it showcases the culture of an alien idealize completion.

Take for example some local residential condominium developments that look like mini-Asian monuments, with details that have absolutely no bearing on our history or nationality and nothing only to look history and aesthetic but failing miserably because not only they are out of context, but also their architect never understood that period's design language or the place. The buildings are simply ugly. Really, what were they thinking?

Very generic approach

Which reminds me of the demolition of the Manila Pavilion. Yet when he designed the much misunderstood pyramidal structure in the center of the Plaza of the Islas de Oceanos in Paris, opting for a generic and universally expanded structure whose materials and simple geometry as graciously complemented the intricate details of the existing historical structures. Even the contemporary anthropologic addition, now gaining fame as the Louvre, is indeed celebrated it through a very generic approach.

In Metro Manila, our design sensibilities have been overloaded upon by neon, wire-mangled electrical posts, add looking "modern" street lamps, billboards and drug posters looking buildings devoid of any style or character. What poverty always be an excuse? Or is that the identity we want? I will get a thrill over that "boring" in the Philippine map on the "It's more fun in the Philippines" logo. Or visibly Pinoy? And when I drive through Roxas Boulevard, I wish all the art deco buildings would be refurbished and made new, just like they were when first built in the 1930s. And let's not talk about the use on Taft Avenue we just not looking up.

There lies still spaces in the identity of the ever growing population reaping the benefits of years of economic freedom and growth that are pulling the building industry in the concrete jungle. I'm hoping that at the very least, the new buildings pursue to growth aesthetic but the ideal would be to have a contextual and historical approach to architecture. This is, after all, our Philippines.

Contact the author through designdimensions@inq.ph or through our Associate Berenguer Facebook account.

PRAISE: Gehry's Walt Disney Concert Hall in LA, and his Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain—undeniably beautiful structures—are entirely designed and are essentially interchangeable. They are generic and could in fact be built anywhere else in the world.

Car factory, a new sustainable model for homes, buildings

By Charles F. Bolden

FERRARI MAY be red, but their factory is green. This thought hit my mind when I recently visited the Italian sports car maker's factory in Maranello, a small town in northern Italy.

But before you wonder why Ferrari, one of the most elite names in motoring, is being featured in a property section, allow me to explain that what we see in the sports car company's 25 hectare facility should give anyone insight on how to sustainable.

The philosophy behind the renovation and redesign of the factory—known in the Ferrarista (Ferrari enthusiast) that buildings and their furniture should be designed with the needs of employees firmly in mind.

This means the whole place now combines carefully designed lighting systems, green areas, a new cafeteria, a fitness center, solar shopping, and special measures aimed at reducing environmental impact, with advanced technologies.

In our guide explained, Formula Uomo para Ferrari employees firmly at the heart of the company, a concept why the factory went beyond building bolt gardens and lining up screws each screw.

Solar energy

In a matter of fact, Ferrari installed solar photovoltaic array on the roof of the Montanari Machining facility, a move that reduced the company's energy use by 20.8 MW in its first year alone. The solar panels cover Ferrari to produce 2113.9 MWh per year, making the company almost independent of the power grid.

According to Amberto Bubu, president of UTS Continental Technologies, a company that controls homes and small communities through online energy, solar panels are clever solution to reduce or even eliminate a household's electric bills while generating "clean" energy.

"With household electricity bills rising, I believe now is an excellent time to take into consideration using photo voltaic energy to power your property. Having a solar panel installed can mean that a family or business can save a good portion of money each and every month by tapping into this source of renewable energy," assured Pudua.

FERRARI buildings inside the Maranello factory is truly surplus glass and steel designs that allow more natural light in premises.

OVER 100 red convention bikes are provided for the employees moving around the factory.

Ferrari also invested $12 million (P521 million) in installing a cogeneration plant, which simultaneously produces power, heat and cooling from a single source. Ivans can more environmentally friendly natural gas) by combining this cogeneration plant with the solar array, Ferrari has been able to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 40 per cent or about 30,000 tons annually. These two upgrades allows the former factory to meet the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol 10 years ahead of schedule.

The Kyoto Protocol treaty, negotiated in 1997, is a legally binding agreement under which industrialized countries will reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases by 5% percent (compared to the emissions levels that would be expected by 2008-12 without the Protocol).

In 1997 a new assembly line at the factory was redesigned ceremony of famed architect Jean Nouvel, who also won the 2008 Pritzker Prize, the Nobel Prize of the architecture world.

The new Ferrari assembly lines features large skylights and reflective plates that fill the interior with more natural light than usual on a car plant.

The result is a building that enables employees to depend less on artificial lighting system that utilizes electricity.

Trees

Of the 25,000 plants species that could be found within the Ferrari factory, a great portion of these could be found inside building, clustered across factory shop floor or encircling various meeting areas.

The reason behind this is the fact that trees take in carbon dioxide and provide people with oxygen, cleaning and freshening the air.

In addition, over 300 trees are planned along the roads around the factory.

To further clean the air within the facility, Ferrari made sure cars are pushed in designated areas and encouraged employees to bikes, walk, or cycle (there are over 500 red commuter bikes provided for use in moving around the factory (the only vehicles allowed to roam the roads are the newly-built, of Ferrari models being tested, fliers and delivery trucks).

Maranello Village

Located just four kilometers from the Ferrari plant is the Maranello Village, the town hall's first residential complex featuring over 120 apartments exclusively available for Ferrari personnel.

The residence is connected to the Ferrari factory via a bicycle lane although there is an external parking and a covered car park for up to 150 cars.

Ferrari believed that by providing on-site cycling incentives and rewards...along with sending out clear signals from the top that cycling to and from the office is a good thing—can all help make cycling a realistic, alternative option for travelling to work.

After all, if more of Ferrari staff cycled to work it would result in a healthier, fitter workforce with the all associated benefits of increased productivity and reduced absenteeism and costs.

Personalized touch . . .

From page B3-1

went to town in a property. Megaworld will be top of their minds," Bueno said.

"The solution of giving free services such as interior designing will be very attractive to sellers markets because it's true value in the money. Moreover, we need to work to make our services personalized and special to make sure that everywhere we go we will only see happy clients," she further explained.

Among the completed projects with BPO units are Eastwood Parkview and One Central Park in Eastwood City; Stamford Residences and 113 Upper McKinley in McKinley Hill; The Bellagio II and Northwood Parkview in Bonifacio Global City; The Residential Resorts in Newport City; Greenhills Heights in San Juan; and El Jardinero del Pensador II in Quezon City.

ArthaLand turns green . . .

From page B3-1

are so that demand, as it presents buyers with a "very attractive investment option given its strong position in the green and luxury segment."

Rising at the prestigious McKinley Hill area in the BGC, the first tower of Arya Residences houses only about 200 units of one to three-bedroom apartments, with size ranging from 66 sq.m. to one sq.m. to 200 sq.m.

The second tower, which was recently launched, will house only about 200 units of two- to four-bedrooms with larger sizes ranging from 114 sq.m. to over 300 sq.m.

"We are very bullish of the market prospects. We are confident that Arya Residences will provide a fresh and rich option for the value property investors," Lacuna concluded.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Ezhr Cesar D. Manganaang

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Experts share tips on how to stop cancer via diet

Text and photo by Tess R. Salazar

CANCER HAS become a household household word, with almost everyone having known a relative or friend suffering from the disease. Yet, focus has been directed largely to the cure rather than prevention. While there have been studies on the role of stress, lifestyle and environment in the triggers, causes and progression of this disease, role of diet has still been largely unexplored by mainstream medical science.

Inquirer Science and Health interviewed scientist T. Colin Campbell, a Jacob Gould Schurman professor emeritus and nutritional biochemistry of Cornell University; Shahrokh B. Aggarwal of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; Dr. Samuel Epstein, toxicologist and professor of occupational and environmental medicine at the University of Illinois School of Public Health; former Health Secretary Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan; integrative medical doctor Omar Arabia and other medical professionals. They shared their "secrets" on how to prevent cancer through diet.

The physicians committee for responsible medicine in its "Cancer Facts: Meat Consumption and Cancer Risk" article discussed the carcinogenic compounds in cooked meat. Heterocyclic Amines, a family of mutagenic compounds, are produced during the cooking process of many animal products, including chicken, beef, pork and fish. This article, which came out in the T. Colin Campbell Foundation website, said that even meat that is cooked under normal grilling, frying, or oven broiling may contain significant quantities of these substances. The longer and hotter the meat is cooked, the more these compounds form.

In some studies, grilled chicken has formed higher concentrations of cancer-causing substances than other types of cooked meat.

NATURE'S medicine cabinet served on a plate

Role of diet

"If Filipinos decided to eat plant-based diets and seriously replaced fast-food chains, they would gain much stature, more health, and be much richer and independent in the future," Campbell told Inquirer. The book "The China Study: Startling Implications for Diet, Weight Loss and Long-Term Health" which he coauthored with physician Thomas M. Campbell II, detail the role of diet in preventing the disease. "Animal protein increases the levels of a hormone, IGF-1, which is a risk factor for cancer, and high casein (the main protein of cow's milk) diets allow more cancer to grow. Other foods, which allow more dangerous carcinogen promoters to bind to DNA, which allow more mutagenic reactions that give rise to cancer cells, which allow more rapid growth of tumors once they are initially formed."

It stresses that genes by themselves do not determine the cause of disease. Rather, they are activated, or suppressed, and nutrition plays a critical role in determining which genes, good and bad, are activated.

Epstein, said in his book, "The 'all fast foods'" who practices integrative medicine, cites several studies that point to animal meat's closely correlation in the human body's digestive system.

Dr. David Servan-Schreiber, MD, PhD, author of "Anticancer (A New Way of Life)," listed his anti-cancer diet composed of cruciferae vegetables Omega-6 sprouts, fish (they eat) and legumes accompanied by olives and olive oil, green tea, turmeric and curry (the most powerful natural anti-inflammatory identified today), ginger, garlic, onions, leeks, shallots, chives. He added his three red flags that seem to trigger cancer:

• Overconsumption of refined sugar and white flour, which stimulate inflammation and cell growth through insulin and IGF (insulin growth factor).

• Overconsumption of omega-6s in margarine, vegetable oils (including corn, soy) and animal fats (meats, dairy products, eggs) stemming from farming methods that have lower use of balanced meat fat-formed Nobel Prize; and

• Exposure to chemical contaminants that have entered the environment since WWII, which accumulate in animal fats, and—though studies are not yet definitive—exposure to the electromagnetic fields of cell phones.

National studies by Aggarwal and fellow research scientists cited how curcumin was shown to have "killed" tumor cells. Curcumin inhibited fifty tumor cells, and leaves normal cells untouched.

Iodized salt crucial in fight vs IDD

By Theresa S. Sanantiago

INTAKE (IDD) spectrum of the most severe diseases and disorders, iodine deficiency may not glare highly on anybody's list. But the high incidence of iodine deficiency in the country commands that much-needed attention if we are to effectively combat its debilitating effects.

Although the National Nutrition Survey 2008 showed that 81 percent of the respondents are using iodized salt, the amount of iodine was found to be below the standard level of fortification. The same survey showed that 55.8 percent of household have salt that has 0-4.9 ppm (parts per million) of iodine content.

Pregnant women and lactating mothers under Bicolano found in the survey to have low level of iodine based on UIE (urinary iodine excretion) levels, which means that they are prone to iodine deficiency disorders.

Essential nutrient

Rhonni Tiensongrusmee of Salinas Foods Inc. stressed that iodine is an essential nutrient needed by the body for proper cellular functions and is even regarded as the "food" of the pituitary gland. The lack of adequate iodine will then result in iodine deficiency disorder (IDD), which may lead to various complications.

According to Tiensongrusmee, IDD is often manifested through a goiter, cretinism, sluggishness, mental retardation and stillbirth. However, there are effects of iodine deficiency disorder which are not visible to the eyes, hence this is also called, Hidden Hunger.

Worsen, Tiensongrusmee added, are more prone to iodine deficiency, especially pregnant and lactating mothers. This is because more nutrients are needed for the development of the fetus as well as in producing milk for the infant.

Thus, the government, in the '90s, had promoted the use of iodized salt, believing that this may be the most effective, economical and efficient way to combat IDD since everyone uses salt in flavoring the food. Through Republic Act 8172 or the Act of Promoting Salt Iodization Nationwide (Asin), the government in 1995 has started to mandate all salt producers and manufacturers of food-grade salt to iodize the salt they produce, import and distribute to the consumers.

For its part, Salinas Corp., the largest salt producers in the country, then began the distribution of the IODel iodized salt, which was the first locally produced iodized salt. In 1998, Salinas developed the Saltwise iodized salt to cater to low-cost market and later on, the Ida Salt Iodized Table Salt for the food service channel.

Another innovation of Salinas in 2007 was the development of an iodized salt that can aid in making meat lighter and safer with Fidel Marinate Meat Tenderizing Salt.

Tiensongrusmee noted that since the '90s Salinas has been again itself the cause of finding ways to better implement the iodized salt program as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities.

"Salinas has been a strong partner of the DOH in promoting iodized salt to every municipality and barangay. We have also initiated partnership with the Department of Education for the Adopt-A-School Iodization feeding program," Tiensongrusmee related.

Promote healthy habits

"We [also] aim to promote healthy habits particularly to doing exercise and eating the right kind of food," he added.

This is why, Salinas, whose main product is salt, also markets other products like Nigari mineral supplement drop, which aids in the prevention of complications arising from pregnancy.

Nigari is a mineral supplement particularly rich in casein and trace minerals needed for optimum health and nutrition, contains magnesium, sulfates, chloride, potassium and more than 40 trace elements like selenium, boron, manganese and zinc.

Nigari, Tiensongrusmee claimed, can help improve an individual's energy and stamina, boost one's immunity and resistance against sickness, and help prevent lifestyle-related diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and kidney stones.

(Users of Nigari and those who wish to try the benefits of Nigari Mineral Supplement Drops can avail themselves of a 30-percent discount by presenting the ad upon purchase in Salinas Foods Inc. office at 33 Sonic Road, St., Quezon City. Offer is valid until Aug. 20, 2012.)

FIDEL Iodized Salt was the first locally produced iodized salt.

Editor Cesar D. Manzanero
PROPERTY

TAKING SUSTAINABILITY THRUST SERIOUSLY

ArthaLand turns green to 'Gold'

By Theresa S. Samaniego

THE RACE to being green is on.

While the development of green buildings in the Philippines is regarded by some analysts as still being on its pilot stage, a great number of industry players have already begun to investigate the so-called "green initiative" to tap the numerous benefits that sustainable structures can bring.

If before, the mantra was location, location, location, the numbers today direct investors in three things: certified sustainability measures, niche personal and the location's locator much more—factors that are especially crucial in the residential category.

Property hunters are thus on the lookout for green structures that will not only deliver operational efficiency and environmental performance, but will also bear that authentic seal of sustainability.

Globally, there is a recognized standard for green buildings to ensure that the quantifiable sustainability measures are emphasized. The US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program is a panel of industry-approved monitoring system that calibrates the building's sustainability features.

In the Philippines, world-class boutique developer ArthaLand has built Arya Residences, the first and only top-end development to be registered under this LEED program in the residential sector. This top-end flagship project was built to achieve the Gold certification.

Savings

Based on the LEED standard, Arya Residences was designed to provide as much as 40-percent savings in potable water usage, and at least 14-percent savings in electricity usage. The perpetual efficiency envisioned from the required sustainability design features such that the owners will receive lower base, require less possible waste to maintain, and use technology that provides residents the opportunity to reduce reliance on valuable resources.

ArthaLand is also a member of the Philippine Green Building Council (PhilGBC), the proponent of the country's national green building rating system called Berde or Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence. And Arya Residences is currently the benchmark Berde project for vertical residential buildings in the country.

"Greening the real estate sector is a very important step for all the stakeholders in the industry. Standardizing the greening measures is a major step to encourage developers to take the sustainability thrust seriously" said ArthaLand president and CEO Angelo de Villa Lazaro.

AFFIA Residences is a top-end two-tower condominium development.

"By cooperating with the PhilGBC in putting together the benchmark for green residential condominium, we believe that we are encouraging our peers in the industry to up the ante in improving efficiency and responsible usage of resources in the developments that we build," the added.

'Tricky matter'

Lazaro admitted that the greening of developments is a "tricky matter" and this is why ArthaLand, together with PhilGBC, would like to espouse the use of calibrated and strictly monitored sustainability parameters.

"Greening should go beyond the landscape greens and waste management. To fully reap the benefit of sustainability, developers should be able to measure the inputs and the outputs of the eco-friendly features that are build into our buildings," Lazaro explained.

Despite the proliferation of low and mid-market developments, it is undeniable that the top-end, luxury niche preserves better prospects as an investment instrument, according to ArthaLand.

Citing the Philippine Real Estate Market Report released by Colliers International Philippines Research, ArthaLand said that in the first quarter this year, rental rates for a three bedroom, high-end condominium at the Bonifacio Global City were up by 7 percent year on year, and are further projected to rise by another 6.33 percent in the first quarter of 2013.

There are the longer units and more luxurious apartments that are often preferred by quality expatriate tenants who are willing to shell out roughly $4,000 a month for a 250-sq.m. three-bedroom unit.

And Arya Residences is poised to

SEE ARTHALAND BC-1

Personalized touch awaits prime clientele

By Theresa S. Samaniego

PREMIUM SERVICE, they say, comes at a steep price.

An exorbitant price tag is "almost" always attached to anything that is considered first-class and upmarket, or for any service that goes beyond the extra mile—a residential unit that has long been accepted by many consumers.

Still, "almost" is the operative word.

For Megaworld Corp., the country's largest residential condominium developer, a further enhanced after-sales service is now easily at hand for its most sophisticated, discerning buyers into the extra high cents.

Highly personalized touch

Through its new marketing division, Prime Properties Group, Megaworld is giving buyers of its properties that are "ready for occupancy" (RFO) a highly personalized touch—a move that is set to spark changes in this particular segment of the real estate industry.

"Through the years, there is a specific segment of the market that prefers RFOs more than the pre-selling projects. And these buyers are usually the more sophisticated ones who want to personalize their units...from ones in the design and furnishings. This is what we will be offering to them," said Megaworld PPG vice president for sales and marketing Serena Rocha.

"[PPG] was created to cater to the specific needs of the sophisticated and meticulous segment of the market. It's the vision of Andrew Tan to fulfill and inspire those who have become well-known in a land-starved country that's been put into every home," Rocha said in a recent briefing.

The Prime Properties Group, which was created only in January this year, will exclusively handle all the completed and "ready for occupancy" units of Megaworld.

Aside from the usual after-sales services provided in prospective unit owners, the PPG will also be offering more value-added services, including free interior design. Megaworld is hoping that through this division, it will be able to provide its clientele unparalleled after-sales service.

"It may be a very, very small segment in the market—so far 3 percent...but we still want to tap it and be able to provide to every possible buyer," Rocha noted.

Group of seasoned designers

PPG, according to Rocha, has put together a group of seasoned designers that will take care of the specific needs and whims of future homeowners.

In person, the group is offering three standard designs that RFO unit owners can choose from—Zen, Contemporary and Modern Victorian—depending on their personality, lifestyle, color and mood preferences.

Clients who prefer another theme or a more personalized design can also ask the PPG group of designers to redraw, reposition and purchase items for their brand new condo units and lodges.

Personalized service

"We can do the shopping of fixtures and furniture for them for free. It's really by personalized service and it's like providing a custom-go service for that specific segment of the real estate market. We are opening the door to a new world, based on what they want," Rocha explained.

Megaworld PPG, she added, may also assist RFO unit owners who would prefer to lease or resell their properties. The group will likewise source the rubber-stamp and maintenance of the units in the absence of their owners.

Asked how Megaworld is able to provide such services at no cost, Rocha revealed that for the country's leading property developers, business is not always about revenue.

"We also want to ensure the satisfaction of our buyers and create long-lasting, after-sales service to our most valued clients. We want them to remember Megaworld so that the next time they

PERSONALIZED BC-1

PPG will exclusively handle all the completed and "ready for occupancy" units of Megaworld Corp.

PHOTOS BY ALDEN CHADWICK

PPG will be offering many value-added services including free interior design.

8 trends to affect. . .

From page BC-1

sector for global research and consultancy, said GFIs are "resilient amid the lingering global economic crisis."

"If they lose their job, they may still be employed in other companies, or could consider starting a business in the Philippines. Ultimately the motivation of OFWs to go abroad is to afford buying their lifetime dream of their own house and lot, send all their kids to school to earn a degree and have a decent life."

2 Population/demographic movements at home. Cordero revealed that another interesting trend which may affect the future real estate environment, primarily the housing market, is the impending change in the demographic makeup of the local populations.

"We note in the case of Japan in the 1990s and the United States of late, the introduction of various measures to change the demographic pattern [through various measures such as population control and incentives for delaying births] has contributed to the slump in housing demand."

Cordero said the Philippines will not be experiencing the same situation as Japan with regard to population.

"If you look at a certain graph of the age distribution of our population, you will see that this is weighted heavily on the younger age set. So, in terms of demand for housing, we see that this will be sustained due to a young population, whether this be through housing purchases or rentals," Cordero said.

Asuncion said "the close to 100-million population of the Philippines is the 'unique selling proposition' of the Philippine housing market. Population control in its broadest sense is not expected to influence the prevalent housing backlog of the country."

Business said the Tinanseen policies apply to countries that are considered 'mature' economies. The Middle East, Japan, Singapore and China are classic mature economies and are unilaterally stable or consider real estate demand via regulatory initiatives from adjusting interest rates to moving vast stores of land and concrete floors in cities to accommodate the migration of workers."

3 Major policy shift on land due to calamities. "In the Philippines, we have yet to experience major policy shift in land and demographic movements. The only exception would be when government uses its regulatory and police powers to initiate large probes to earthquakes and flash floods," Seciano said.

4 OFs' preference for high-rise apartments. Seciano observed that with the increasing population rate in the Philippines, in particular the increase to 17 million people in the expanded National Capital Region, people are currently purchasing affordable condos in Metro Manila because of this proximity and the convenience of OFs that have experienced living in high-rise apartments in their host countries.

5 Affordability, prevailing market conditions and interest rates. Asuncion said that the "affordability of the property, given the prevailing market conditions, prevailing interest rates enable the buyer to avail of cheap bank loans to maximize the purchase."

Cordero said other factors affecting purchases in real estate include the demographics, economy, interest rates and government policies. Similarly, interest rates would have a major effect as a decline in interest rates encourage more people to purchase the property.

6 A "bloom or gloom" general economy. Asuncion observed: "In the case of the Philippines, now confidence from local and foreign investors is strong and encouraging. This results to more investments and more demand for real estate in condo[minium]. A stable economy translates to a stable employment."

7 Political stability in government policy. According to Seciano, inconsistencies in government policy and implementation can also cause a decline in confidence in the real estate sector.

8 Function/purpose of buying. Asuncion said buyers' purpose to buy [properties]—either for their own use or for business—can affect the pattern of real estate purchases in the Philippines.

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ROADTALK Saturday

After the flood

What to do after a watery encounter

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AFTER THE FLOOD

What to do after a watery encounter

By Jason K. Ang

THE MOST important rule when it comes to floods is to avoid them if you can. But it's not always possible, given that floods of biblical proportions regularly turn our roads into rivers. There are times when you can't turn back, as are forced to cross through water. If your faithful car makes it through, there are several areas you have to watch out for, to make sure it functions properly and comfortably.

Engine

The most critical part of the car is the engine and related components. After going through a flood, stop at a safe place. Check that components such as the radiator fans are still functioning. Make sure that water has not entered the fuse box or the car's computer or ECU. If water has reached these areas, dry them thoroughly as soon as possible.

If muddy water has splashed around the engine bay, an engine wash at a competent service station is a good way to remove the gunk. Make sure that parts such as the fuse box and ECU are properly covered before the engine is washed.

Check the dipsticks for the engine oil and transmission fluid. If you see water droplets at the end of either dipstick, you must change the oil and fluid and filters as soon as possible. Better to drive the engine down as soon as it's safe to do so and have the car towed or trucked to a service bay than to risk damaging the engine and other components.

Brakes

Remember that brakes will lose a lot of their stopping power after going through water. Squeeze the brake pedal gently and let the brakes dry before attempting to go at normal speed. Check the brake calipers and discs if any debris or mud has gotten stuck.

Interior

Carpets are the most vulnerable part of a car that submits through flood, particularly if the rubber plugs in the floor have been compromised. Dry the carpets and have it washed, lest the mud and other smelly parts of flood water cling to the carpet. You can certainly soak up most of the water at home, but rubber your have an industrial-type vacuum cleaner at home, bring the car in a detailing shop to have the carpets deep-cleaned.

Underchassis

Look under the car to make sure that it's free of debris. Pay special attention to the suspension arms, exhaust pipes, driveshafts, and even the spare tire if it's mounted under the car. Having the undercarriage cleaned via some spray after the car is washed is a must, to loosen the chunks of bitumen clogging up the car's moving parts. Shallow rubber/bearings are sealed, but chances the car's behavior when driving it after going through school. Unusual noises, sluggish performance, or handling abnormalities highly resulting the vehicle after driving are indications that some components may have been compromised and need to be checked or replaced.

A watery experience, even if you are driving a 4x4 pickup or SUV, can wreak havoc on a car's mechanical and electrical systems. Examining your vehicle thoroughly can minimize the damage and make sure that your car stays reliable, even after a watery encounter.

THE Subaru Impreza Challenge final last year in Singapore

2012 Subaru Impreza Challenge-Manila Leg slated at Bonifacio Global City

By Neil Erwin Inocencio

BOOKING OFF this Aug. 11 is the much-anticipated 2012 Subaru Impreza Challenge-Manila Leg, more known as the "Challenge," at the Bonifacio High Street, Global City in Taguig from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Hosted by Motor Image Philippines, distributor of Subaru cars, the Subaru Impreza Challenge is an endurance competition wherein contestants must outdrive each other by firmly placing their right hand on palm decals located on Impreza cars and staying there for as long as possible, with only a five-minute break every six hours.

Top 10 participants will get a chance to compete in the regional Subaru Impreza Challenge-Asian Fast Off in Singapore on Oct. 27 and win a brand-new Subaru Impreza 2.0i 6-speed M/T sedan.

Last year, after a grueling 75-hour, 33-minute-long fight to outlast all other contestants, Cheng Kiat Chi of Singapore won the Singapore Finals and took home a Subaru Impreza WRX 2.5 MT Hatchback. Philippines' representative Alex Feblianca Jr., who lasted for 69 hours, was awarded best out of the regional contestants by making it to the top 10. He walked away with Singapore $5,000.

Aside from the Subaru Impreza Challenge, Motor Image Philippines will be hosting the "All-new 2012 Subaru Impreza/Public Launch," later that day at 5:30 p.m., to officially unveil the fourth-generation Subaru Impreza.

The Subaru Impreza Challenge is open to all Filipino citizens and permanent residents aged 21. Registration is from July 18 to Aug. 3. Requirements must be submitted personally to Motor Image Philippines' Green Hills office.

For inquiries, contact the company's trunk line at 727-8333 or 727-3687.

BMW Philippines breaks new ground at the Auto Allee BMW in Eton Centries, North EDSA

BMW Customers Corp. (ACC), the official importer and distributor of BMW in the Philippines, held the ground breaking ceremony of its newest BMW dealership, the Auto Allee BMW in Eton Centries, North EDSA. The dealership will be BMW's fourth dealer in Metro Manila, bringing the tally of BMW dealerships to seven nationwide.

The new dealership is a testimony of the company's continued growth and widen dealership network in the luxury segment, which is currently expanding so much out to the growing Filipino market under the premium vehicle segment.

The dealership indemnitorate is planned to finish in December 2012 and will be fully operational by February 2013. It will have a 1,500-square-meter lot area with a total of 3,800-square-meter occupancy as it will be a two-storey structure. It will also house of brand new, premium selection of BMW Motorrad, a service center, and a third floor parking area complete with two car elevator access.

"ACC is very happy to have Auto Allee as the newest member of the ACC dealership family. We are envisioning working with them hand in hand in order to bring the best in luxury vehicles to the Filipinos," said Marion Pavo, president of ACC.

The continued growth and success of BMW in the Philippines is attributed to the strength of its products which are synonymous with driving pleasure.

Additionally, ACC recently launched the All New BMW 3 Series, as a part of its aggressive expansion in the country. The all-New BMW 3 Series is available in two variants the 320i, featuring a new four-cylinder petrol engine with TwinPower Turbo technology that sets a new benchmark for driving dynamics and fuel efficiency, and the 328i, known for its high performance and having one of the world's cleanest yet most economical inline-6 engines. The sixth generation of the BMW 3 Series, the world's best-selling premium car sedan, sets new benchmarks in terms of sporting prowess, elegance and comfort.

AT THE groundbreaking rites are, from left, Jamie Kua, president of Auto Allee; Clemente Garcia, chair of Auto Allee; Wilson Sia, vice chair of Auto Allee; Marivic Pavo, president of Asian Contractors Corp., and Alan Manio, ACC dealer development officer.

PADILLA ENDORSES A1 ORGANIC FORMULA PRODUCTS

ACTOR/environmentalist Ronnel Padilla displays a sample of A1's Organic Formula car wash which he endorses to participants and car dealers during the Parmar Garage Car Show organized by Bohlers and Iveon Pro/Dorana recently at the Bryan's Casino Filipino grounds in Parañaque.

Lateral drift series kicks off today at Quirino grounds

DRIFTING, the fastest growing motorsport in the world, returns in a big way as some of the country's top drivers join the opening leg of the seventh season of the Philippine Lateral Drift Championship Series 2012.

This season will have a full calendar of six rounds which will start this July until the month of November. The four rounds will be held in Manila and the other two rounds at Clark Pampanga. At least 40 amateurs and pro drivers from all over the region are expected to see action.

Round 1 will be held today from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the parade grounds of the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

Organizers promise the event to be truly spectator friendly and are convinced that admission is free to all sixth lovers.

New judges for this year's events are Filipino pride and AFI champion Wyan Rivera and multi-awarded hunter Al Carlos together with Moy Bargoa, co-founder of Lateral Drift Productions who will serve not just as this year's stunt judge but a core director of the event alongside his co-founder Boy Charlie Cruz.

All three will be judging the drivers based on speed, angle, and style.

Isuzi Gimo, the 2011 season champion, is all set and ready to defend his crown from all the competitors especially amongst top drivers, Cha Rodriguez, Raymund Rosupillo, Amy Llave, Rendix Dalusol, Jhebs Blanco, Ryan Agoncillo, and the former Hillclimber Lateral Drift champion Alex Perez.

Last year's Rookie of the Year Ralph Tanwell is out to give the top guys a run for their money now that he has moved to the Pro class division.

The Amateurs division this year will be a full grid as well with new entries from Pampanga and Manila. This year, they will be separated from the Pros, compared to last year's combine inked system.

Rain or shine on Saturday, expect a good show, with tons of excitement, high speed sideways action, tire screeching and burning rubber from the best Filipino drift drivers.

The Philippine Lateral Drift Series is sponsored by Lateral Circle Pendimar, Rotor, Accy-Customs, Dickies, DC, Light Hands Dental Center, Adika Paint, and EDM Hearing. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Autoreviews, Topgear, Philippines, SpotlightTV, Motorcycle Magazine, Power Wheels Magazine, Rotor.com, Racing Boys and Speedweph.com.

DOE ETrike Program to help parts makers

WITH the local auto industry reeling from the impact of the departure of some local auto assemblers and lesser value-added parts and labor in most vehicles being sold today, the electric vehicle association of the Philippines (EVAP) sees the Department of Energy's Electric Tricycle Program as filling in the vacuum to the production plants of local auto parts makers.

EVAP president Sonnie Juan says that **EVAP fully supports the ETrike Program** since this will provide a fresh source of income and employment for the local auto parts-making industry. "This is welcome news to them because most of their are currently operating at below 50 percent of their rated plant capacities. And because of the new jeeps and business aspects presented by the ETrike Program, this will also create new businesses and a lot of employment opportunities. Add to this the fact that foreign investors and suppliers from Taiwan, South Korea and Japan have shown a keen interest in the program."

EVAP is an organization of some 40 electric-vehicle (EV) manufacturers, assemblers, importers, suppliers, dealers, enthusiasts and even members of the academe.

On the other hand, the $100 Million DOE ETrike Program proposes to replace 100,000 units of conventional, smoke-belching, gasoline-powered tricycles with ETrikes nationwide. Under the program, an initial 20 prototypes will be locally assembled and tested within 150 days.

Once it passes the tests, the local initial order of 5,000 units must be delivered within the next 180 days. The new phase will involve 15,000 units which must be delivered by December 2013. The final order of 80,000 units must be completely deployed nationwide by December 2016.

Funding will be provided by the Asian Development Bank, Clean Technology Fund and by the Philippine government.

Juan stresses that given the large volume of ETrikes that needed to be produced during the next four years, foreign investors are now looking at the Philippines as the possible manufacturing hub for the region not only for EV parts but even of the EV itself.

"In fact now, we do not view foreign investors as competitors but as potential business partners. As a matter of fact, a lot of them are now here to the Philippines exploring possible joint venture arrangements so they can source the materials, labor and facilities needed to locally assemble the ETrikes. They are also interested in setting up the much-needed infrastructure like charging stations, service centers and parts supply depots", he adds.

"Foreign investors and local auto parts makers are now working hand-in-hand to complete the supply chain needed to ensure the sustainability of this nascent EV industry. Sooner or later, whatever new EV technology they will bring in will ultimately be manufactured here. We are hoping that by the success of the ETrike Program succeeds, the Philippines can finally have an industry that we can call our own. It might even be able to catch up with our Asian neighbors such as Thailand and Indonesia that have surpassed us in the auto industry in the region", Juan says.

He adds that this time, the entire auto industry must not let this golden opportunity slip by.

"We must make sure that we take advantage of this opportunity and not let it go to other countries. The Philippines not only has the business interest but is also strong in its environmental responsibility. That is why the country is ahead in its EV programs compared to its neighbors," he said.

"We are thus very happy that we have in our midst forward thinking secretaries such as Sec. Jose Almendras of the DOE, Sec. Gregory Domingo of DTI and Sec. Made Mendoza of the DOST who all supported our recent EV Summit in energizing for the potential future of EVs and their benefits that the country can derive from them," Juan continues.

Toyota wrests back No. 1 spot in global car sales

TOYOTA Motor Corp. regained the lead in global car sales over General Motors Co. in the first half, with Volkswagen AG poised to move past GM and push the US automaker into third place for the full year.

The bigger question is how soon the German auto giant also will pass Toyota and secure the global sales crown—an intermittent feat that GM management has targeted for 2018 as part of the company's so-called 10x target.

VW, in a statement to reporters released Thursday, said: "The Volkswagen Group is right on track for 2018, but has not crossed the finish line yet. For us, quality takes precedence over quantity. We don't want to be the biggest...but rather the best and most sustainable automaker in the world. For us, environmentally friendly products and satisfied customers and employees are at least as important as sales rankings and profitability." It still has to maneuver past a resurgent Toyota, which has rebounded smartly from the effects of last year's earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Toyota in February said it expects to sell a record 9.38 million vehicles globally in 2012, shattering the old mark of 8.97 million in 2007.

Toyota had held the global sales crown from 2006 through 2010, before the natural disasters in Japan dropped it last year to third place, behind GM and VW.

"We have recovered greatly from the earthquake and tsunami," said Javier Moreno, a spokesman for New York-based Toyota Sales Americas. "Our dealers now have plenty of inventory and showroom traffic is up on a global basis." Toyota said it sold 4.87 million vehicles worldwide in the first six months, a substantial increase from the 3.72 million it sold last year, when all Japanese automakers were reeling from the earthquake's aftermath.

GM said it sold 4.67 million vehicles in the first half, up 3.0 percent from 4.54 million the previous year. GM's global performance was driven by record first-half sales in China, which now accounts for more than 50 percent of the automaker's worldwide total. The US market, where GM's sales are growing at a much slower pace, accounts for only 28 percent of the company's total sales.

GM spokesperson James Cain on Wednesday said: "We continue to grow our sales and share in China... We are in the early days of the most aggressive roll out of new products in our history which will help us press our advantage in the US and China and grow profitably around the world." VW, in a mid-year company report released Thursday, said its first-half sales totaled 4.44 million, up 22.4 percent from 4.17 million last year. But the German auto giant, which recently added sports car maker Porsche to a diversified brand portfolio that also includes heavy truck makers MAN and Scania, recorded a rote of recession.

"Deliveries by the Volkswagen Group developed very well in the first half of the year," sales boss Christian Klingler told reporters earlier this month. "But that is by no means cause for euphoria. The economic situation, particularly in Western Europe, remains tense and difficult," Klingler added. "We remain on track and are entering the second half [of the] year, which will be altogether more challenging, with confidence." A renewed focus on the US market in part of VW's long-range plan to boost global sales to more than 10 million units by 2018, with the United States contributing at least 10 percent of that volume.

Tom Libby, senior automotive analyst with IHS Global, Michigan-based R.L. Polk, said VW's management "has been very aggressive, with the US playing a significant role in their global growth strategy. They have become more competitive on pricing here, and we expect that's sales and share will continue to rise." REUTERS

On THIS April 25, 2012 file photo, Toyota cars, including the Vios (center) are on display at the Beijing International Auto Exhibition in Beijing last April. Toyota announced recently it sold 4.87 million vehicles globally for the first six months of this year, a strong result that could see the Japanese automaker regain its crown as the world's top automaker from General Motors Co. AP

Good is in the details

Five useful features in the new Honda CR-V

The 2012 Honda CR-V reinforces the model's position as the most spacious, most comfortable, and most refined in its class. After a week of driving the car, we were still finding clever touches throughout the cabin, giving evidence that the CR-V is the most considerate and convenient car in any category. Here are five features we came to appreciate:

1 Spacious, ergonomic cockpit. There's plenty of room to stretch in the CR-V's cavernous cabin, both in the front and rear seating areas. The driver gets a smartly designed cockpit, with all controls easy to view and operate. The multi-information LCD is mounted high on the dashboard, allowing easy viewing of the trip computer or audio system.

5 As an SUV, it's expected that the CR-V provides split-folding rear seats to increase cargo room. The UV does this one better by locating the handle to fold the seats within the loading space, exactly where you'd reach for them. Then the seats fold flat into the floor, to a mechanical connection worthy of Optimus Prime. The result is a huge loading bay with a rails-sweltering 2007 liters of space.

Jason Ang

2 Backup camera. The LCD display doubles as a rearview for the backup camera. Backing up into a parking space is made much easier, even with passengers in the back and a full load of cargo.

3 Econ button. Inclusionists drivers may despise this, but it works wonders for the fuel economy. Essentially the opposite of a "sport" button, the Econ mode dampens accelerator response, modifies the transmission settings, and even adjusts the air-conditioning all to favor fuel economy. Even with the Econ mode engaged, the CR-V's VTEC engine provided ample torque for climbing and overtaking.

4 Conversation mirror. When conversing with the kids in the back seat, the driver has to turn his head or to orient the rear-view mirror...neither option very safe. Inside the CR-V's conversation mirror, allowing the driver to see everyone inside the cabin without touching the main rear-view mirror. One gripe with the conversation mirror—the viewing angle appears reversed, as if designed for a right-hand drive layout.

AVID sales up 28% in first semester of 2012

AVID president Fe Perez Aguas

THE ASSOCIATION of Vehicle Importers and Distributors (AVID) ended the first semester with a 28 percent growth to 13,799 units from 12,519 units sold in the same period last year.

This compares with the overall industry growth of 7 percent.

The Passenger Car (PC) segment rose by 58 percent in the same period to 8,320 units from 5,007 units sold last year. Robust sales of AVID members, British United Automobiles, Inc., The Covenant Car Company, Inc. (TCC CO), and Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) boosted overall sales for the said period.

June 2012 alone saw a year-on-year growth of 9 percent to total sales to 2,912 units from 2,666 units sold in the same month last year.

Economic outlook

The Philippine economy's positive outlook was reaffirmed by a credit rating upgrade from Standard & Poor's, to BB+ from BB. This rating reflects the gradual easing of fiscal vulnerability amidst global economic uncertainty. Sunny developments and current Bloomberg show that GDP growth is supported by domestic consumption and the expected improvement in export performance this year. A low inflation environment will also continue to be favorable as it stays within this year's 3.5 percent target range.

"In 2013 enters the second semester, we expect a more upbeat outlook towards the end of 2012, strengthened by stable macroeconomic fundamentals and continuing bond management efforts. We believe that sales will remain resilient against global economic challenges," said Ms. Fe Perez-Aguas, president of AVID.

AVID Members	Sales Volume (in units)
	June 2012
British United Automobiles, Inc.	20
CATS Motors, Inc.	97
HARI	2,356
ScandinavianMotors	23
Motor Image Philippines, Inc.	108
TCCCI	240
Total	**2,912**
Jan-Jun 2012 Total	**15,799**

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LUZON: Bicol | Pasay | North EDSA | Alabang | Pangasinan | Cabanatuan | Baguio | Rosales | BISAYAS: Cebu | Bacolod | Iloilo | Tacloban | MINDANAO: Cagayan de Oro | Davao | Zamboanga

COMPANY: Ryan Logro and Power Inc. (LPI) FLEET: Purchased a total of four units of the model as an augmentation of a 4x4 single cabin vehicle fleet. Now a total fleet size of 5 units of FORD Ranger 4x2 XLT. USAGE: Serving as the foreground asset and maintenance equipment for supply depot with continuous power.

Nationwide campaign for the Ford all-new Focus

FORD Philippines announced an exciting, interactive and unprecedented launch campaign—All-New Ford Focus... Start it. Drive it. Win it!—designed to engage Filipinos consumers with real-life 'smart-to-drive' test of the all-new Ford Focus' first-to-segment, smart technologies. The smart demo road show will officially start Friday, Aug. 3 at SM Manila.

Start it. Share it. Win it! provides a unique opportunity for customers to become part of the Ford market launch of the all-new Focus by participating both online and on the ground over a 12-week period that will include seven event locations across Metro Manila.

The campaign will give more than 1,000 consumers in the Philippines the opportunity to experience the smart features of the all-new Focus through weekend events spanning Aug. 3 to Sept. 16.

Participants will be asked to 'Start it. Share it. Win it!'—meaning to start the all-new Focus and experience the smart technologies, share it with their friends via Twitter and Facebook, and become eligible to win the all-new Ford Focus.

To join, consumers must register on Facebook—www.facebook.com/fordfocus—to receive their spot for a smart demo at one of the scheduled events. Additionally, walk-in registrations will be available on the event locations.

At the events, consumers can experience two of the first-in-segment smart features of the all-new Focus:

• Active Park Assist. With the touch of a button, the driver of the all-new Focus can parallel park easily—totally hands-free.

The nifty system uses sensors around the Focus to help identify a available spot then steers the car into the space. The driver controls the accelerator, brake and gears.

• Active City Stop. This collision-mitigation system helps to avoid low-speed front-end collisions by monitoring the road ahead and braking automatically if the sensors detect the imminent traffic or a stopped vehicle in front of the all-new Focus.

Each participant will be filmed in real-time during their 'smart drive', capturing their spontaneous reactions.

On the Monday following the weekend event, all participants' videos (seamlessly interwoven will be uploaded simultaneously with each participant receiving a link to their own video from their respective with friends in their Facebook circles.

This video will then compete against all other videos from that event location for a combined score derived from the most number of unique views, commitment votes, and the participants' creative response to their favorite smart feature in the all-new Focus over the coaching period of ten days. The first-in, most popular video—at the end of a two-week period—Wednesday—will be named the 'finalist'. Each finalist will win an Apple iPad.

Following the road show in select shopping centers, universities and office locations, a voting period from Oct. 9 to 15 will be opened on the 18 finalist videos, where consumers can log on to Facebook (www.facebook.com/fordfocus) and vote for their favorite video. The most popular video at the conclusion of the voting period will win the outstanding, packed all-new Ford Focus.

Suzuki Auto Marcos Highway opens its 19th dealership in the Philippines

STRENGTHENING its power in the suburbs as manufacturing industry, Suzuki Philippines opens its 19th nationwide auto dealership in Marcos Highway. This branch will be a one-stop shop, fully serviced with the dealership's sales, service, parts and auto service bay area.

"Our well trained staff can help customers purchase their next dependable car while they wait. The assembly line is also conveniently located close by for easy access," says Ten. Suzuki Auto Marcos Highway is located at 128 Bulilong, Marcos Highway Brgy. Dela Paz Pasig City.

Liqui Moly: Reaching out to those who matter

LIQUI Moly, Germany's No. 1 engine oil brand, successfully partnered with Chevrolet Club Philippines and Chevrolet EDSA Greenhills during the club's Grand Gathering and all-conclusion held last June 2.

With over 40 cars and club members in attendance together with engineer Albert Arcilla, president and managing director of The Covenant Car Company, Inc., the partner of Chevrolet retailers in the country, as well as Cecile Maberan, general manager of Chevrolet EDSA Greenhills in attendance, the club event also featured a fully packed program of activities to mark the bonding time of the organization and the opening of its headquarters at the Chevrolet Greenhills showroom.

"Liqui Moly has always been an avid supporter of car enthusiasts," says Benjamin Ong, vice president of Liqui Moly Philippines. He adds, "Our products have been thoroughly developed in Germany to cater to the demanding needs of motorists all over the world and by supporting Chevrolet Club Philippines, we are sharing with everyday motorists the superior protection and performance of Liqui Moly."

The day-long event ran into discussion groups conducted for Chevrolet owners intended to further develop appreciation for their cars. Two batches of seminars were held throughout the day with topics ranging from defensive driving, safety and accessories maintenance. Technical and product experts on national level were in attendance and car owners were found to hone their knowledge and experience in the Chevy Club members as they asked honestly about the best ways to care for their cars.

As part of the club's regular maintenance discussion, Chevrolet EDSA Greenhills service manager Ricardo Lopez-Hilado conducted a short talk among Chevrolet owners about motor oils and the benefits of using the right oil in improving performance and prolonging the life of a car's engine.

With the Liqui Moly Molil Leo Premium 15W-40 motor oil, made from select base oils, and the Molil Leo Premium SAE 10W-40 engine oil, made from mineral and synthetic blends, as the centerpiece of the discussion, Chevy club owners were given an insight on how both high-performance lubricants can make a difference in their rides.

LAWYER Adolfo Arcilla (standing second from right), president and managing director of The Covenant Car Company, Inc., with club members

DESMODROMIC Passion

Ducati Desmo Owners Club Philippines is part of a big and dynamic worldwide community

ESTABLISHED in 2002 by Ducati Philippines, the Ducati Desmo Owners Club Philippines (DDOCP) is the premier Ducati motorcycle association in the country.

Officially recognized by Ducati Motor Holdings SpA (Ducati Italy), the DDOCP through the local Ducati distributor, aims to help its members experience the Ducati lifestyle with all the passion and fun that comes with being part of a big and dynamic community both in the Philippines and around the world.

Through DDOCP, Ducati owners can choose from three membership options. These are as an individual member, being part of an existing DDOCP-affiliated motorcycle club and a club of like-minded enthusiasts and be recognized as an official DDOC-affiliated club.

Regardless of what option is availed of, members will get a chance to meet other who share the Desmodromic passion in a fun and friendly atmosphere. Members can take part in all DDOCP-organized events such as bike meets, track days, rides and fun runs.

Any person or group that aims to promote the Ducati brand and lifestyle can become a part of the DDOCP programme. DDOCP members are entitled to a lot of benefits from Ducati Desmo Owners Club Italy.

DOC Members kits sent directly to members each year, special stuff like pins, patches and sticker are always available, they're given special race ticket or packages including Project MotoGP, the hotels and the Ducati Grandstands as well as special DOC member factory tours.

On top of these they are invited to special events, given round bike discounts at the Ducati Factory accessories and apparel signing sessions and discounts for the DRE riding school.

In the Philippines Ducati wise, members get other benefits DDOCP T-shirts and stickers, Ducati Racing Team Paddock access during Philippine Superbike Rounds at the Batangas Racing Circuit and Clark International Speedway, special discounts at Scuba Dan and discounts at the Ducati Philippines riding school.

For inquiries, please contact Ducati Philippines at 412-9892.

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Filipino hospitality makes Boracay hotel one of the world's best

It's official: Discovery Shores Boracay Island is Asia's Best Hotel Spa, and no. 5 among the world's 100 best hotels–thanks to the renowned Pinoy brand of service

By Anna A. Jamboro

WHEN you tap into the Filipino's exuberant hospitality, put an international standard to it, and allow the Filipinos to do their thing, you get a unique signature known the world over.

For Discovery Shores Boracay Island, it's the personal, luxury service that got them this year's No. 1 spot as Asia's Best Hotel Spa, and ranked them No. 5 on the list of Top 100 Hotels in the World. And the just-made them the only Filipino company in the Top 100 Hotels in the World.

"The Filipino brand has arrived. Service is not a new thing. It's something that has always been with us," declared Linda Tevanpera, resident manager of Discovery Shores Boracay Island.

We all know that culture—when we serve the best before ours or guests, when we share that bottle of excellent wine we've been saving for special occasion, when we even give up our beds if they can't find an available room in town. Indeed, Filipinos' fervent desire to entertain and please guests can sometimes border on the uncomfortable. But put a smashed on it and, well, we've apparently golden.

The 17th annual award given by the UK-based magazine Travel + Leisure (T+L), voted by readers worldwide, is one of the most recognized and prestigious awards in the industry. It also ranked Boracay no. 1 as the World's Best Island. Anticipating Santorini, Greece from the coveted spot. The winners were announced on the American morning television show "Today," on NBC.

Discovery Shores Boracay Island has been consistently on the list of T+L's World's Best Awards for three years now, each year ranking higher than the last. The no. 1 citation, though, said Tevanpera, came as a surprise.

"It's all about the experience. We are intimate and personalized. Luxury is about the little things. What do you want your vacation to become? You give us three days of your lives. If we can make a difference

FILIPINO C2

LEEDS Tevanpera, Discovery Shores Boracay Island resident manager

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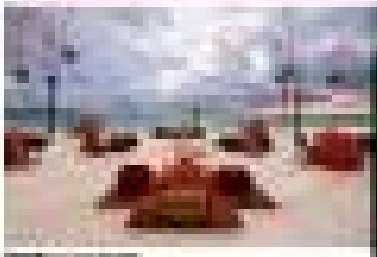
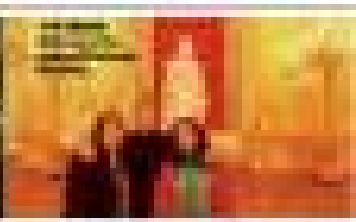
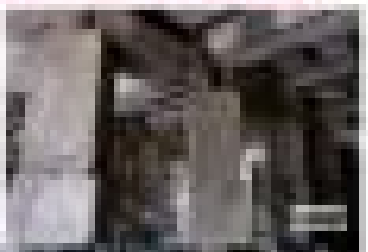


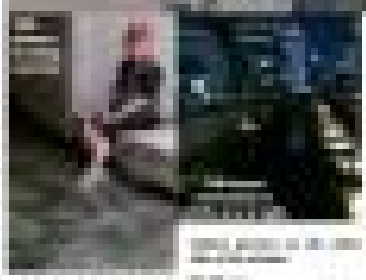
Filipino hospitality makes Boracay hotel one of the world's best



Did you know the Kremlin is full of churches?

The liquid magic of Cheonggyecheon: It just takes a little water





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Rain or shine, there's fun to be had at Taal Vista Hotel

BREAKFAST setup overlooking Taal Volcano

TUDOR façade at night

TAAL VISTA Hotel is gearing up for a fresh, new look to celebrate its 75th anniversary. In line with this, the hotel is offering yet-to-be-renovated West Wing rooms at 35 percent off until July 30. Superior rooms start at P1,500, deluxe rooms at P1,625, Junior suites at P1,725 and Deluxe suites at P1,925. Rates are subject to applicable taxes and service charge.

Want to stay at Taal Vista's East Wing instead? Avail of discounted East Wing room packages with Taal Vista's Diamond Deals until Nov. 30, 2012. For only P6,775, enjoy an overnight stay for two in a Deluxe Room at the East Wing. Three nights stays are also available for only P9,775. Offer is valid every day except Saturday, and is inclusive of daily breakfast buffet for two.

Want a quick getaway with your friends? Avail of Taal Vista's Barkada Package! For only P6,375, you get an overnight stay in a Deluxe Room at the West Wing for three persons. Package includes buffet breakfast for three, Axle flying at the Ridge, happy hour with unlimited local beer, chilled juices, iced tea and sour pepper/asiri plates from 5-7 p.m., and a 30-minute spa session for three. Offer is good until Sept. 30.

Book now by calling tel. 8864321 or 996-4150.860, or e-mailing reservations@taalvista.com.

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EAST Wing Deluxe Room with one queen bed and one single bed; at left, Taal Volcano

Ideal travel companion

Local online shopping site avalon.ph brings to the country Field Notes, a line of notebooks for those who want to jot down thoughts as they explore. Designed for the intrepid, Field Notes are made to be both light and tough.

"The size of Field Notes makes it ideal for pairing to your back pocket. It is not too thick for back pocket but the papers are thick enough to hold," says Jasper Ong of avalon.ph. The pocket notebooks measure 3½ x 5½ inches and come in packs of three.

Made for travel

Field Notes began production in 2008 when former stockbrokers Aaron Draplin decided to make a modern-day version by hand of simple pocket-sized pads used by Midwestern farmers.

It has then developed a significant, almost cult-like following, with customers holding vigils in anticipation of the periodic release of limited-edition Field Notes.

In the Philippines, the product was recently introduced by avalon.ph, which also sells signed books, limited... and first...edition books, hard-to-find board games and specialty merchandise.

"While there are a lot of notebooks in the market, some people may want something special. We cater to those who go against the mainstream and want to go to extreme when they travel," shares Ong.

Field Notes uses the tagline: "I'm not writing it down to remember it later, I'm writing it down to remember it now."

Utilitarian notebook

The first line of Field Notes used graph paper. Today, Field Notes has ruled, plain and mixed papers (a combination of graph, ruled and plain in one 3-pack) variants as well. Aside from its iconic plain brown cover, Field Notes now comes in limited-edition Field Notes Colors and seasonal designs.

Field Notes also has an 80-page Memo Book.

Printed in the back cover of every Field Notes product is a 1-inch ruler and a witty list on the many ways you can use your notebooks. "Be from over or has a space for contact details. It also has space for noting when and where you started and ended using a notebook.

The complete line of Field Notes products is available in the Philippines at www.avalon.ph.

Kris Aquino declares her love for Filinvest

Timberland Sports and Nature Club, Quezon City enclave

For Kris Aquino, the happiest moment of her life is being at home with her family. Home means being with her children and her siblings. She cherishes every moment when her family is complete.

This is the very reason why she fell in love with Filinvest. "Filinvest is dear to my heart because it nurtures the Filipino family by building their dream homes," she explained.

The queen of all media is the new face of Filinvest. Having a brand ambassador who embraces her Filinvest and the decision came at an opportune time when the growing company has met a perfect partner in Kris. This partnership is best described as a meeting of two titans. Each one is a big name in their respective industry. She is the celebrity world and Filinvest in the property development sector.

Considered one of the most credible endorsers in the country, Kris chooses her projects fastidiously, preferring endorsements that she can personally relate to. The commitment of Filinvest to build the dreams of Filipino families is what finally convinced Kris to seal the deal. "Through the years I have witnessed the company grow as they fulfill the dreams of many Filipinos to have a home," she says.

Filinvest is one of the most trusted property developers in the Philippines. With a rich history spanning 37 years, it has built more than 130,000 homes as over 2,500 hectares of lands to fulfill the dreams of Filipino families across the nation. It continues to expand its portfolio of close to 95 projects nationwide, reaching out to diverse market segments and catering to a wide range of property investors and buyers.

The main mission of Filinvest is to provide homes for the great majority of Filipinos. Ten Cities Brand of master-planned community living in metropolitan locations can now be found in 11 projects across Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao. The Filinvest Homes representing their value homes division reaches the vast majority of Filipino families. For urban professionals, Filinvest offers the Studio series in Alabang and Taft Avenue, as well as its Versailles Lanai office/home office series in Alabang and Quezon City (across Timberland).

"Filinvest makes having a home possible and I chose this name with them," she added.

Kris piped in, "Filinvest cares. This is the very reason why thousands of Filipino families have entrusted their dreams of having a home to Filinvest. It's evident not only in its corporate slogan but also through its products."

Filinvest is well known for the cities and townships it has developed. These include the 244-hectare Filinvest City in Alabang, the 677-hectare Timberland Heights, the 350-hectare Vista township covering Antipolo/Taytay-Angono, the 850-hectare Ciudad de Calamba, as well as their original 300-hectare Filinvest Homes near Batasan.

Grand model house interior of Brookville International, Laguna

The synergy between Filinvest and Kris is truly a force to reckon with. It is expected to generate a lot of excitement, especially with the launch of its latest ad campaign where this wood-trained celebrity publicly declares her love for Filinvest.

"This is truly a campaign I can be proud of," she declares.

Indeed there is no other brand ambassador for Filinvest more fitting than Kris Aquino. A family-oriented person, she is a perfect complement to Filinvest's thrust to help Filipinos build their dreams.

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Pixar's 'Brave' new girl

Amazing technology and heartfelt storytelling gives us a new, fiery Disney princess to root for

By Rael S. Da Vera

From its sweeping, breathtaking opening, it is abundantly clear that "Brave," the newest animated film from Disney and Pixar, is exemplified by the awe-inspiring hair of the movie's heroine, Merida. The wild, bloodred hair is simply alive with detail and movement; your eye follows every strand as they sway with action. It does that thanks to newly developed tech by Pixar, of course, and it's wouldn't sway from the impressive job they did with Sulley's hair in "Monsters, Inc."

Just like her hair, Merida (voiced by feminist actress Kelly McDonald) is fiery and independent. The only daughter to the Scottish King Fergus (Scottish comedian Billy Connolly), she is a wild child, seeking in riding her horse and shooting down targets with her deadeye archery skills. But when she reaches her teenage years she discovers that she is hated to be wed to a prince of one of her three clans to keep the peace in the land. When she refuses to do so, she comes into conflict with her loving but stern mother, Queen Elinor (British actress Emma Thompson). After running away into the deep forest, she meets a witch (Julie Walters, yes, Mrs. Weasley) and makes a magical bargain that ultimately triggers a terrible curse. Now, Merida is the only

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The Smashing Pumpkins

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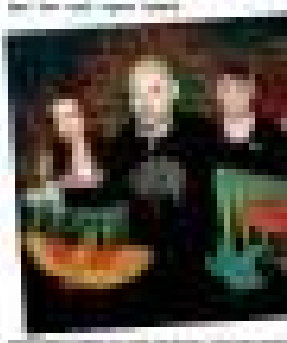

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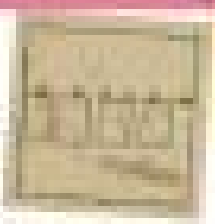

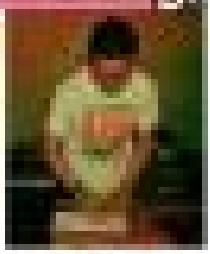

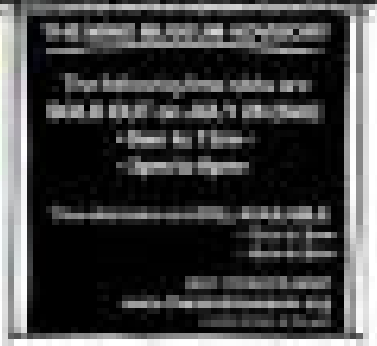

oring 'Oceania' to Manila

in August

r's 'Brave' new girl

SUPER THERMOMETER

'Text From Dog' book, Mariah Carey on 'Idol' and the tragic theater shooting in Colorado

'Text From Dog' soon to be a book

GREAT news from our favorite Tumblr account—the hilarious feed from Dog will soon be available in book format. We can't say we're surprised, we knew it was bound to happen. And we're ecstatic. Now if only Bamboo can autograph our copy.

Mariah Carey on 'American Idol'

IT'S OFFICIAL. Mariah Carey will soon be sitting on the panel of "American Idol." We have a lot of questions. What else do we miss as Paula or will one pull a Simon? Will any of the contestants attempt to sing her hits in front of her? And what's going to happen to Randy? Is he really just going to be a mentor like he says he wants?

Reddit power

ALISON, an 18-year-old Reddit user, made headlines of her own on the days after the Aurora shooting after he spent hours upon hours collating information about the tragedy—from police scans, early reports, video clips, stories from other Reddit users who were at the theater, to news sites, blog posts, livestreaming pages and pictures—and putting everything together in a comprehensive 16-part timeline.

His efforts hit the front page of The Washington Post and was featured on CNN. It's amazing to see how the Internet continues to change post-tragedy reportage, with journalists here debating from the sidelines, raw footage available on livestreams and laptops at hand-college-based kids acting like some man-in-the-middle between the safety of their own bedrooms.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt on GQ

JOSEPH Gordon-Levitt is featured on the cover of this month's GQ, and while he says he's thankful for the opportunity, he wasn't happy with the way the article mentioned his brother's death.

Amy Wallace wrote, "... the actor Gordon-Levitt died of an alleged drug overdose in 2010," "It was an accident" is all Joe will say about that."

And Joseph responded on his blog, writing, "I'll be honest. It really made me feel terrible. Using the word 'alleged' technically allows the writer to say whatever she wants. The 'allegations' to which she could be referring were made by a handful of gossip websites. They are factually incorrect according to the coroner's office and the police department. I don't like publicly speaking about my brother's death, but I'm making an exception to correct this misrepresentation. ... My parents and I are disappointed with what the article chose to focus on regarding this sensitive subject."

GQ has released a statement about the issue, saying, "The magazine stands by its reporting. The facts of which are fully reported—and have been confirmed to [GQ]—by the Los Angeles County coroner's office."

While GQ may have facts to back up their statement, we still think they should have apologized.

Christian Bale visits the Aurora shooting victims

CHRISTIAN Bale, who plays Batman in "The Dark Knight" trilogy, surprised some of the victims of the Aurora shooting with a surprise visit last Tuesday. He and his wife visited the memorial, spoke to survivors and their families and met with doctors and nurses, bonding the wonder of a community still reeling from the shock of what happened.

And the most striking part is that this visit wasn't a tangent to Warner Brothers; he did it on his own volition, and kept the people in Aurora not to notify the press.

"He's the real Batman," some people have said.

And while we think the true heroes in this scenario are those who give their lives to save the people they loved, the ones who didn't leave the wounded even if it meant putting themselves in danger, the first responders, the police officers, the EMTs, the doctors and nurses who saved lives, and the people who have shown incredible generosity in the wake of this tragedy, we still think he did a great thing. You're a class act, Christian Bale.

Colorado shooting

ALL EYES have been on Aurora, Colorado since Friday last week, when the senseless and tragic theater shooting left 12 people dead, 58 wounded and a community shocked. Batman-loving fans had gone to the midnight screening of "The Dark Knight Rises," expecting to enjoy the last film in the Christopher Nolan trilogy, and ended up facing a very real villain—a 24-year-old unremorseful student who wielded guns and chemical canisters.

Survivors accounts have since gone and victims of heroism, sympathy and numerous acts of kindness lit up what was otherwise a very dark week. It will be a long wait until the victims find justice—the gunman is in jail, but official charges have yet to be filed and the trial won't start in at least a year.

THE PHOTO of Sebastian's Green Mango Sorbet with Bagoong, which was published in Super's July 21 issue, was shot by Tia Constantino/The Beridican Press Corps.

Unleash your inner K-pop star at the Hallyu festival this weekend

By Fran Katigbak

TAEGUK 11 is a place where you can give yourself a serious workout and at the same time let loose your inner pop star—for points and bowls optional.

Make like the latest Korean pop acts, such as Super Junior, Big Bang, 2NE1, Girls' Generation and Wonder Girls, in K-pop dance classes offered by the Korean Cultural Center (KCC) in Bonifacio Global City.

KCC's modern dance program is not just for K-pop fanatics. The minimized hotel only stands a few meters within on YouTube to find out the type of choreography being taught. Anyone age 12 and above is welcome to join, as long as you're eager to dance and break a sweat.

Then, you might ask, why would anybody want to dance like a K-pop star?

Because the dance steps look fun and easy. It's a workout that feels like you're in a music video rehearsal. And the music is many indecisions—admit it, you swayed your li'l hadrani did the flirty flick of the shoulders a la Wonder Girls in the "Nobody" video.

K-pop star looks

Then there's Korean instructor Danee Choi, who had been a choreographer and back-up dancer to K-pop artists before she was invited to teach at KCC.

She looks and dances like a K-pop star, but don't let her petite and slender frame deceive you—Choi grew her students quite a work out. The 24-year-old has had herself training in jazz and classical ballet, and has been dancing professionally for over six years.

On the day we dared to try Choi's class, blasting on the speakers was Super Junior's "Sorry, Sorry" and the dance style just had to be the one that could easily expose my awkward moves—hip hop.

We plunged in with two left feet and plenty of apprehension, but in less than 10 minutes Choi had us grooving—though not quite in synch with the rest of the class—to the rhythm.

KCC's modern dance program offers two types of classes: hip-hop, or boys' dance and girls' dance.

People' and lockin'

In the K-pop world, hip-hop is not as "hard" or "down and dirty," which is how Filipinos hip-hop is characterized in the "Sy 'Em Think You Can Dance" lexicon. The kicks, jumps, poppin' and lockin' are delivered in a cool and suave, instead of badass, manner.

In other words, said Choi, "It's pop dance."

Girls' K-pop dance is feminine, flirty and sexy; the performer accents of which is CL/Kara "2 Hot" which Choi tackled on the second class of the day. It is no less challenging, considering the amount of grinding, pa-cute head bops and small, quick movements involved.

"The important thing is students need to polish and make their movements classy," said Choi.

The music is fun, but dance steps are simple to programming levels of quick learning, so modern we don't get as fast as the beat of the song. Choi dissects the choreography down to the flick of a wrist, so students like myself, whose learning curve for dance is not as sharp, could catch up.

Mixed bunch

Classes are attended by dance enthusiasts, like 20-year-old Annie Quintero, a language teacher who has had 3 years to vent her 22 weeks of K-pop dance classes and is a member of the KCC traditional dance group. Hip-hop and contemporary dancer Kristine Inocencio, 23, who dabbles in theater and belongs to a competitive dance crew, signed up to the dance program to pad her performance skills. Government employee Bernadette Lasdig, 45, keen to dance and is already in her fourth term in the KCC program, which she said was the first dance lesson she has ever had. All three women have been dancing for fitness as well.

Mixed in the bunch are university students, such as K-pop fan Catherine Wong, 16, an HRM student who dance the bare-minimal down after nearly four terms in the dance program. Another K-pop fan, Michelle Jane Gabriel, 17, a Computer Science major, signed up for classes when she saw the KCC ad on TV. El student James Andrews, 19, loves K-pop so much that he has been looking for a dance class to join, but says that would still accommodate the dance lessons.

It seems Hallyu fever has not waned since homecomings had invaded the local bookstalls.

The Korean Cultural Center was opened last year in an effort to keep up with the Korean wave in the country, said Seong Un Hwang, director of the KCC.

Striking a balance

"We want to keep a wider appreciation for Korean culture and try to keep a balance between modern and traditional programs," he said.

Other KCC programs include Korean language classes, which have the most number of students; K-pop singing; traditional dance; *hanji*, or Korean traditional papermaking using paper made from the barks of mulberry trees; taekwondo; or Korean traditional percussion; and Korean cooking and cuisine.

At the end of every term, the cultural center holds a graduation ceremony and recital for students to showcase what they've learned.

To celebrate its first anniversary, and the 49th Hallyu festival, which runs this week-end, KCC is bringing over Korean boy band SeeNeed to perform tonight at the SM Mall of Asia Conference. The six member pop act debuted last year with an eponymous single that placed seventh on the Gaon Charts, which keeps track of South Korea's best-selling music in and outside the state.

In the past, KCC has been instrumental in bringing K-pop artists to the country, including boy band Shark 8, which performed in September, and all-girl hip-hop group 2NE1, a member of which a former serious Sunday's "Tawa" Park.

Twenty-one the festival programs also include the K-Pop Cover Dance Group Contest and Drama Cosplay Competition.

The Korean Cultural Center is at 2/F Bonifacio Global City, 32nd St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, tel. 8331712; fax 8331707; e-mail info@koreanculture.ph or philippines@mofat.go.kr; visit phil.korean.culture.org.

DANCE PRODIGIES Choi demonstrates Korean-style hip-hop and a hopeful, flirty dancing.

GIRLS' K-pop dance class learns G-Dra's "2Hot" routine.

KOREAN pop group Boyfriend performs at the Hallyu Fest today at the SM Mall of Asia.

CEDAC Un Hwang, director of the Korean Cultural Center

KOREAN Cultural Center in Bonifacio Global City

IN THIS ISSUE
■ 'Fated' in Manila /E4

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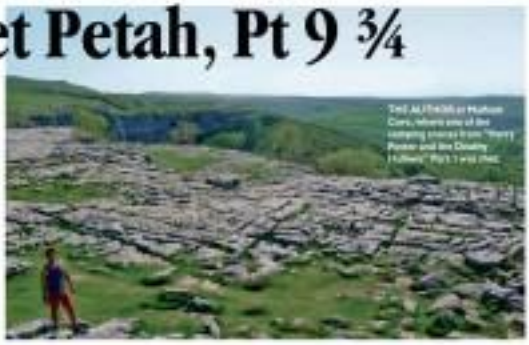
When Harry met Petah, Pt 9 ¾

A journey to the world of Harry Potter

By Peter Sandrin
Contributor



I'M NOT a bibliophile but I enjoy a great story. For over a decade, J.K. Rowling's fairy wonder enchanted everyone. She introduced us to a fantasy world of magic and wizardry, where good triumphs over evil. We welcomed Harry Potter into our imagination. Though I never considered myself a fan, I found reliving the story quite a treat when I visited the Orlando theme park and their studios in London with other Harry Potter landmarks.

Wizarding World of Harry Potter

When the theme park opened as Universal Studios, production for Book 7 was still under way. The build-up to the last chapter was so intense that I had to get my fix in Florida. Flights were booked and we were on our way to meet Harry.

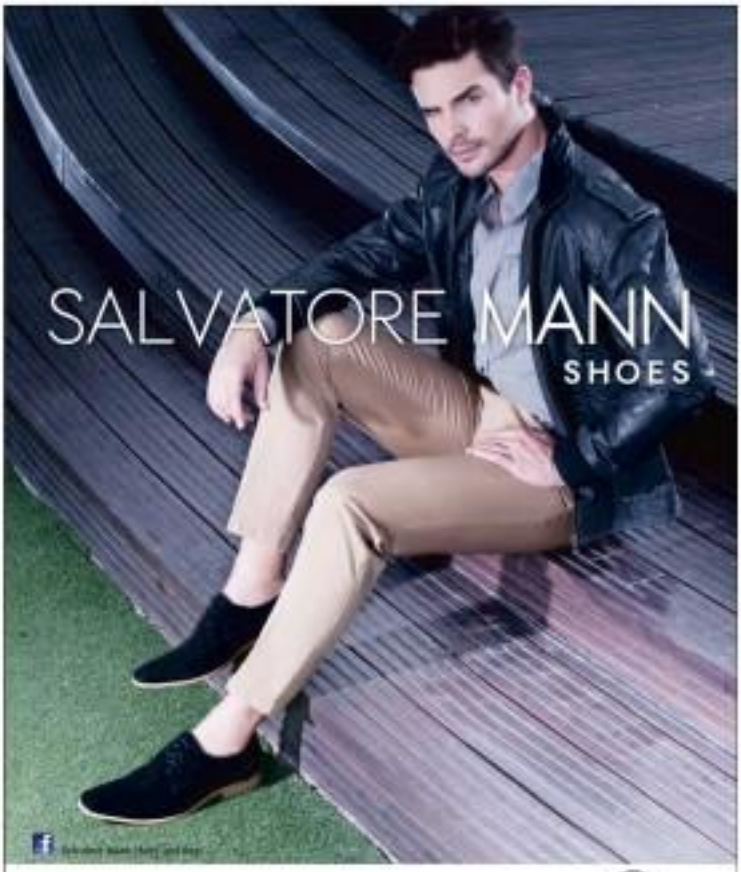
Once the somewhat 4-medieval archway proved us at Hogsmeade—the wizarding village. To our right was Hogwart's Express landing, complete with 4 steam units. (A note for the suggestion box #1: it working and service that could rather in trainers would be popular.)

I got goosebumps and I navigated through the crowd with wide-eyed muscles. Wizards and muggles, donning wigs that showed their affiliations, danced around town. Although the park was small and the foot-traffic made it congested, it felt like a portal into Diagon Alley. The main street was lined with familiar shops—Honey Dukes, Spintonishes, Leaky Cauldron, to name a few. The Three Broomsticks served mixed grub and Butter Beer. The "beer" is nonalcoholic, fizzy butterscotch-flavored soda specially created for the park—drink liquified caramel popcorn with this. If you get the caramel pretzel, you can go bottomless.

Speaking of wheelchairs, you need to be prepared to spend some serious dough. Across the street is Gerrick Ollivander's shop, where he guides wizards-in-training as they choose their wands, or vice versa. It is connected to Dervish & Banges, a merchandise haven where all your furnishings are up for grabs, including Harry's Firebolt. (Suggestion #2: If you sell magic brooms for $500, make sure they fly. Just saying.)

The park has a couple of not-of-place coasters but the main attraction is the Forbidden Journey at Hogwart's Castle. Waiting time can be ridiculous but the castle re-

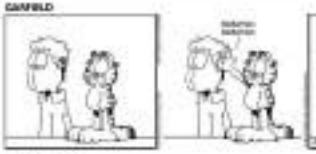
FLOATING the cart at Platform 9 ¾



www.sinlaysfshoe.com

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



A. LUPIN BY JES ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY ROB. L. SANCHEZ

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE-MOTS BY ELIZABETH HOROWITZ

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE BY RYAN ABRERA

SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DILBERT BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK BY NINA CELL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CORNET

THIS WEEK'S THEME You have a new outlook and you will be able to be recognized this time for a social contact or work. You want respect, you are ambitious, leadership and responsibility ... always ahead. You want to succeed, to be at top. Your self-confidence will be at its peak. You will be able to realize many things in your life, for the good. If your ambitions or bold something your capacity convince with these.

Birthdays of: Alexandra Hamnett, Douglas, Scott Jaffe/Hanson, 1958 Ian Lake, Darren Mcintyre, Jamie Thomas Rogal, actress

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You love your freedom and are good with psychology. This is a period for communication and negotiations. Try something!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Conversations with lovely members will be important and dynamic trade. Perhaps it's romance you're discovering with someone.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're hopeful and are creative in all your conversations today. That's why this is a great day for dates of your wife and, needed, create an opportunity a outing.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're bursting with bright ideas about how to earn money. Spend money and now what you already have. Coworkers, and family members crave contact in your life through your social.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Today the Sun and Mercury are beautifully lined up in your sign, which means it's a great day for conversations with others. You've got something to say!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Your research abilities are strong today. Getting your thoughts straight here is the key to success in communication.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have a take-charge attitude today, which will be a definite help in various settings. Don't worry; they will follow. Share your goals to get them realized.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have a powerful personality today, and you're able to influence others to see things your way. Don't overdo it, though, or you'll be seen as pushy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Relationships are key today. It's extra important to be sensitive to the needs of others. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you're struggling with something. Most people love to offer assistance and different ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You'll have an insider advantage when it comes to dealing with others today. Don't be afraid to share your own ideas and opinions when discussing how to share something with others. This is also a good day to settle disputes about shared property.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Listen to what people have to say today, because others, especially partners and close friends, have things to say that you need to know. You don't have to do what they say, you just have to listen.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You might take charge of something at work today simply because others look to you for direction. You have a strong sense of what's right and you speak with authority.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

	4		7	5		6	2	
9					3			7
5								
	8							6
7			1					5
4						8		
								1
8			2					3
	2	3		9	6		4	

Solution to previous puzzle

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLOCKWISE, from left: Dumbledore's office; on a broomstick; Potions room

When Harry met Petah, Pt 9 ¾

From page E1

through our hero's spectacles. It was certainly more magical than the Magic Kingdom.

But my journey was far from over. And this adventure took me to Potter's motherland and beyond....

Malham Cove

Last month, when I visited my family in the UK, my sister planned a trip up north. She wanted to show me the English countryside. Part of the tour was a hike to Malham Cove. Needless to say, when the Potter crew filmed here. You can see it in the "Deathly Hallows" film, it was one of Harry and Hermione's pit stops as they sought one of the elusive Horcruxes.

A climb in the limestone pavement led us to the campsite—a sweeping vista that left us breathless. Situated below was a kind sanctuary, home to Peregrine falcons and owls. As boons, Hedwig awaited us ... not really, but there was a Snowy Owl, much like Harry's pet, perched on a tree. We were told that she had been sitting there for days waiting for her mate and dad to feed her.

There were vast grass knolls walled with stone fences dating back to the 18th century. Where grass is abundant, sheep are found. A two-tiered waterfalls could be found on the other side of the cove.

The Making of 'Harry Potter'

The adventure continued next day. With my sister and good friend, Leah, we drove to Leavesden, just outside of London. Bus loads of muggles were unloading when we got there. There, we found the Warner Brother studios that churned out magic the past decade.

The tour began with a brief screening of the Potter phenomenon and what to expect inside. After the showing, Harry, Hermione and Ron unveiled the doors to Hogwart's Castle.

We were led to the Great Hall, which looked ready for dinner. It was peppered with decorations from each house. Next door, we found props from all eight movies. Some rooms and sets were left intact, including my favorite, Professor Umbridge's office. It was adorned with her animated kitten, much like the talking portraits. There was something both saccharine and sinister about them. Another section was the simulation room where you can "experience" flight. You can ride the broomsticks and the flying car, complete with wind machines.

The back lot had outdoor seating where you can enjoy Butter Beer. The perimeter holds Hogwart's Bridge, Weasley's Cottage and Privet Drive. One can also get on the triple decker Knight Bus, the Ford Anglia and Hagrid's motorbike.

There was the house of puppetry and animation studio where hundreds of creepy, life-like manda pands and creatures hover. The next studio led us to Diagon Alley, where every element had been kept intact. I wish we could actually shop in each store. Quite a few, Warner Brothers, A gallery with drawings and bridal studios led us to Hogwart's Castle. The scale model used in all the movies filled this gigantic room. You can spend hours admiring this masterpiece. The tour was capped by a visit to a merchandise store that was just begging to be remarked.

Overall, the behind-the-scenes experience encapsulated the expedience of making Harry come. This overrated energy is a museum of art to be found to enjoy.

In and around London

The city of London became the urban backdrop of the series. Probably the most memorable was the kid's first trip to the school of magic via the Hogwart's Express. They found their way to King's Cross station where they ricocheted to reach Platform 9 3/4. But in real life, it doesn't exist. Instead, a faux platform, complete with an embedded trolley, was built for fans and tourists to enjoy an obligatory photo-op.

We can then navigate your way to Thames via St. Paul's Cathedral and find the Millennium Bridge. You can continue your stroll along the river that would bring you to Tower Bridge and Big Ben. Continue on to Piccadilly and Oxford Circuses to complete the experience.

Closing the book

If you want an interactive, family-friendly exercise, Orlando is the place to be. If you don't fancy the rooftops, London would be your cup of tea.

I was fortunate to experience them both. I traveled to the magic of such a fascinating journey I became the boy who lived to experience the World of Harry Potter.

The ultimate Harry Potter fan tour

Wizarding World of Harry Potter
Universal Studios
Orlando, Florida, USA

Malham Cove
Village of Malham
North Yorkshire, United Kingdom

King's Cross Station
Central Line stop
City of London, United Kingdom

The Making of Harry Potter
Warner Brothers Studios
Leavesden, United Kingdom

If you don't have time to plan, a tour company can do that for you. These excursions can run around P4,000 and up and they do not include the return flights. Attractions are a mouth, it's the most extensive tour I've seen. Check them out at: www.hpfanatics.com.

SLYTHERINS, at right, Harry's best (Hogwarts)

'Fated' in Manila

How Alyson Noël was wooed to come here and visit her fans

By Tobie Yang
Correspondent

Alyson Noël's books are such a big hit in Manila that Fully Booked Bestsellers Inc. Bookstore Service for National Book Store and PowerBooks/Sandbox Bonnie Peralta didn't want to leave everything up to fate. When she found out Alyson would be coming to Asia, Sandra hopped on a plane to Singapore to ask (gently, please) if Alyson would drop by Manila to meet her avid readers and fans.

The whole thing was spur of the moment but flawlessly executed. Alyson only had three days in Manila, but she managed to fit in a lot—squeezing the right lots of books in for the personalized cards and every book she signs, to the wait in line (a month or, met Samantha Bolla, and Bellow Bela Alfaz and treated photos of leopards that they) need her.

Sandra stayed up all night before the signing to talk about business, the impact 9/11 left on her life and her own brush with the paranormal.

Sandra blogged about flying to Singapore to meet you. How you surprised?

Yeah, you know it was amazing. I was on a book tour in Singapore and Australia, [now on the road for four weeks, and she flew all the way to Singapore just to do a very short interview with me and I just couldn't believe she did that. It was so impressive that she took the time to do that! She invited me to come to the Philippines and we were talking about maybe only next year or something. I had these weeks of vacation planned in Australia and Malaysia, in Langkawi and I thought about it and I thought, 'Oh, I'll just say, 'Gosh, I'm already here so if they could on each short notice pull it together in the three weeks that we had until my vacation ends, I'll just cut my vacation short and finish it in Manila. They were able to pull this thing off so quickly, so I flew in. It's a very quick visit but I'm thrilled to be here.

Do you get to interact with fans a lot?

Yeah. Mostly through Twitter. I found that's the quickest way to communicate, but I'm also active on three

book tour, I think it's so amazing how your fans have this sort of instant association with him. You imagine what I would have been like if I were twelve and I could've been like, 'Dear Judy Blume ...' You know? (Laughs). It's fun, it's just amazing.

On the flip side, some fans will go on YouTube to express their violent reactions particularly those who are invested in a particular relationship. How do you deal with that?

You're never going to please all people all the time, that's a complete given, so all you can do is stick to the vision you had for the characters. Sometimes there's a difference between what readers want to see for the characters and when the characters need to happen in them in order to grow and complete their journey. I know that when you become very attached to a character, it's hard to see the author complete her or his journey through each book. They just want the two to live happily ever after and sometimes need to earn that happily ever after, you just have to get through those tough things because that's where they'll most grow. So you may not please everyone but, but you have to stay true to your vision as a writer. If you can not to please everyone, you're going to end up pleasing nobody.

What was the worst thing you've done to a character?

Oh my god, what haven't I done to a character? Ever Bloom, I killed off her entire family and the dog before I even really began. I took the dog too just to make it really bad. And Dane Santos in Blind, I put her through the horrible, brutal physical intimation that I would never volunteer to do myself, so you put them in these situations and just kind of live vicariously through them from the safety of my laptop.

We heard you took a three-day observation course for Fated. How was that like?

I was already signed on to write the 2nd Fathom series and that was part of the reason I did it: It was a huge fly in the face of my fear of really horseriding. I was amazed by that experience, and a lot of the things that I experienced during the course of the three days found their way into the book—it really helped to shape Dane's experiences in Fated.

Is Fathom is pronounced "dare." **There have been arguments online about the pronunciation.**

Yeah! I'm getting a lot of questions on that. I thought people would have more difficulty with Tethered. ("Tether"), but weird, but I think that's because I'm from Texas (laughs).

Are young adult novels busy saturated into Native American lore and observation seem main plot. Where did you get the inspiration to go there?

It was the research. I did for the Immortals series. I'm really big into research, I like finding out the cultural, physical themes. I read a lot and took a three day psychic development course, went through a past life hypnosis course. It was during the course of researching for the Immortals that themes of destruction kept appearing, just kinds of things that I was drawn to and I was constantly intrigued by this ancient, primal premise, that it didn't fit into the world I was building for the Immortals, so I just shelved it and planned to use it for my next series. When it came time to write my next series, I was so very interested in it, so I started reading a lot about shamanism, Native American lore and took a class. I had private healing sessions with a shaman, I traveled to New Mexico and interviewed Native Americans and heard teenagers about growing up there. I was really intrigued by their culture and ideas, but I also definitely tweaked it for my own storytelling purposes. I was inspired by the basis of this belief system, in Dane Santos is to book—to which is the modern day version of a shaman. Her journey is a little different.

How many books are you planning to do for Soulfires?

There'll be four. Fated, out now, Echo out in November, followed by Elysia and Phantom in 2013, so a book every six months.

Do you ever Google yourself?

No, I learned not to do that [experience]. I did it early on as every writer does and then you learn not to do that anymore (laughs). It's good comes of that.

You had a lot of jobs before becoming a writer. How did that play a factor in how you write?

I sort of think that my own life all the time, and I'm always on experience and find a way to write about it. All of those jobs that I had along the way were out of financial necessity. I didn't love all of them, but I'm grateful for them. Each step led to the next, and there're all sorts of things to make my own values coming across or elsewhere.

All your books have homosexual bent to them somewhere. Do you have any idea why you'd want to play Ever? Or Bailey?

I have no idea why. I'd want to play Ever because I'm not my characters so closely that it's hard for me to choose really beautiful people to play them, but I would love to sit in on the casting call for Dane and Cade and Jude and Bram and all the boys (laughs).

Alyson Noël at Bonifacio Global City

What's a work day like for you?

Wake up around 7:30 or 8:00, go into my downstairs office, check e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, procrastinating, procrastinating, procrastinating, have breakfast, work out, take a shower, go back to my computer, finish the social stuff again, and then go to work. I always want a cup of green tea, a coconut candle, I want a crystal necklace a reader gave to me, and I put on my headphones and listen to the playlist I created for the book and I write every single day throughout the whole day, I just sit on my desk writing. I take little breaks, obviously, but for the most part, I'm writing. I try to get ten pages a day. I pretty much do that every day, seven days a week. But I love when I do. Those days when I do that, I can't say I loved my writing. But then one I feel really grateful to have.

Was there a turning point that made you decide to finally quit the other jobs and be a writer?

There was. It was 9/11. I was a flight attendant, I was based in Los Angeles, and I knew my job would never be the same. It wasn't a fear thing, I never got afraid of flying or anything like that, but my had to take pay cuts and our work rules changed, and it just felt like it was no longer passion. I had nothing to lose and I thought, I'm going to take this dream to these seconds. With the free time to see whether I was going to make it work or stop talking about it and do something else, so 9/11 was it. It took a drastic event like that to get me going.

What was the most unprecedented thing that's happened to you?

A few years ago somebody named my mind while I was trying to write my book "My Me To The Moon." It was a person I hadn't thought about in quite a while, it was an immortal thought that would resurface for eight hours. It wouldn't go away, I would finally write, oh I'll just call it Ever, and then, "Oh, I can't call it Ever," and I Googled his name and all this stuff came out about his recent death, and it was a person who I had no connection with anymore. He lived in a remote place. I would never have known that he had died if that hadn't happened to be thinking about him. And then not long after that, a book that I had been long years ago found its way back to me in the mail. Someone who was going through his things left compelled to pick up that particular book, look inside, read my inscription inside, tracked me down, and sent it back to me.

"Fated" and other Alyson Noël titles are available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.

Of love and other lemons

Katrina Stuart Santiago's book of essays 'Of Love and Other Lemons' peels back the smugness of middle-class feminism

YOU should be afraid of Katrina Stuart Santiago. Intelligent but belligerent, and known for being outrageously brilliant on blazing political commentary, this polemicist-in-a-hazel persuade you never, at least to see nothing by your best.

She has also brought the Love bundles of late harassment, on food threat and companion out of step. In when she came out with her new collection of personal essays, "Of Love and Other Lemons," I was surprised to be putting down my glasses, exchanging my fear of paper cuts for a very close reading of her honest confession of what it actually like to be a woman.

And I mean a woman in the most universal sense of the word. With her personal essays, Santiago peels back the smugness of middle-class feminism to clearly you feel her priming herself for a vulnerable search for how women love, fight, and after all of it, survive.

Santiago, the blogger behind **radikalchick** (no comma), "Mom" can we come from love and our bodies, out and our boundaries, remain shrouded in silence—the kind that allows for all of us to fit into stereotypes, the kind that keeps us in competition with each other, the kind that renders us all disempowered.

The first in a society where great gender imbalances rule on many identities, and even those to rabble that provide casual communal spaces. It can be shallow. If a guy you're with orders a light beer and you order a Stout, he'll judge you. Or order well-bread you the right beer.

It can be confounding. In parties, people might think they're closer by asking you about the relevance of feminism and your role in it as you're comfortable in the quarter. It can be deep. Even you might question your own humanity behind and your own

achievements as one, all of this, after waves of feminism, that you might realize whatever you're saying has already been said.

How many times have we slammed against the barricade of the Reproductive Health Bill and thrown back by the patriarchal sentiments of Church and State? How many times have we said that?

More than a political fight

And how much has changed?

Katrina Stuart Santiago's book is this very conversation, but in many ways, the discussion is a little bit more than just a political fight (actually, of course, you consider the increasingly clichéd line "love is political"). I thought the subject of human engagement in the title was the Trojan horse of love, and that for Santiago, this book was a relentless takedown of love. More sneak it makes basic sense, and how we ought to have been past the animations that between our

Add Up headphones

of leaving my ears plugged. Apart from the ring and ideas would outfit just the right amount of bass, what impressed me was the headphones' ability to control noise.

When I removed the earbuds, I was surprised to be reminded of just how loud the TV volume was and how noisy the people in the mall were. They were that effective. Maybe Reuters herself would approve?

There are so many other impressive things about The Sound of Shirley's audio products. The Indie Jammin' earbuds, the Peoples Get Ready in-ear headphones and the Positive Vibration on-ear headphones all support the environment.

Materials like recyclable aluminum, steel and nature are used to make them. The wood for the ear housing is FSC-certified. From the packaging is green, certified wood and paper were used—and lots of them, too.

Giving back

The House of Shirley also donates five percent of its annual profits to environmental organizations. There are many ways to support the earbuds, take care of the planet and promote peace.

"Our father taught us everything we do has to give back, to complete the circle," Bethea says. "It's not enough to make earth-friendly products. We need to support programs that do good and help people."

Earlier this year, ABS-CBN Marketing Inc. imported The House of Shirley products to the country for the very first time, and the star shipment turned out to be successful. The items sold out at Ayala Appliances, Powerbooks, Rustcard Books and other outlets.

The good news is that more stores will be carrying items from the brand, and new products such as watches, bags and accessories will be introduced very soon—all of them will embodying the spirit of the quirky Bob Marley.

How do you like your headphones? E-mail the author at tanseaboth@yahoo.com.

Earphones even Bob Marley would rock to

By Nilo-Hazelle Sabio
Contributor

WHEN IT comes to headphones, I've always been old school, meaning I go for those huge, chunky cans—heard or felt—like headphones. Apart from blocking out the rest of the world, making me focus on whatever song I am listening to, chunky headphones also make me feel like a legit music lover.

Call me a poser, but I just really like how I look when I have those huge headphones on, whether they're covering my ears like they're earmuffs or just fashionably resting around my neck. Of course, I've used earphones as well. Cheaper, more portable and easier to wrap—what's not to love?

Perhaps it is something I am not a big fan of, it is these in-ear headphones. Instead of in the ear canal, they remind me of those metal suppositories I've used from a couple of times and I never really "get" them like headphones, nor the supposedness, so I'll never go back to my beloved, bulky and heavy headphones.

Lately, I had another close encounter with in-ear headphones, care of audio brand The House of Shirley. Founded by Bethea Shirley (the ninth eldest son of, yes, the Bob Shirley), the brand offers a collection of audio products that Bethea himself created. I had to endure a long, P1,199 ordeal researching the origin of the iconic reggae artist, those in-ear headphones deserved another chance.

Classy casing

No doubt about it, my faulty fanatics are headphones that look really nice. They have a clean wood rear casing, a silver aluminum ring, a braided single-core cord in reggae colors, plus red silicone tips.

One look at those tips and I kind of didn't want to listen to some music in the bathroom, as I had to somehow use my face, or maybe my ear canals (I'm weird). They didn't feel comfy when I plugged them in, they felt different, but I didn't want to push them deeper inside. And then I remembered that in-ear sets of plugs were in the box. Tried both, and found the medium ones to be perfect.

Now, I'm ready to listen to some music in my earphones.

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY Special

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CHIU AND SAMTOS. Chuapoky duenona away in Rubio's latest chiller.

NOW SHOWING

Vilma-Kim starrer scares up a storm

By Rito P. Asilo

VILMA SANTOS' chiller with Kim Chiu is guaranteed to make viewers squirm and scream in their seats.

Chito Rubio's "The Healing" captures on an engaging premise. Encouraged by the miraculous healing of her sickly, 7-year-old dad (Robert Arevalo) in the hands of Monang Elsa (Liana Ramoso), Seth (Santos) takes her chum Glenda (Chiu) to Belen, Dilawang, Cor Quezon, Cebu Villanueva, etc.) to the faith healer to rid them and their loved ones of their illnesses.

Soon thereafter, Seth's son, Jed (Martin del Rosario), begs her to take Cookie (Chiu), her estranged husband's (Mark Gil) daughter with his new wife (Cherie Martin), to Elsa because of a lingering kidney problem even doctors can't get a handle on.

Doppelgangers

But, after Kim meets(s) a dead person (Jhong Hilario) by mistake and is consequently attached by the same patient, both begin seeing doppelgangers of her friends in dire danger. With some trembling cues, Seth swears that a way to reverse the curse on everybody dear to her. Moreover, what will it take to save Cookie?

When Seth realizes that she holds the key to breaking the curse, she ruminates on a mission that requires her to get rid of, not just the symptom, but the source of evil itself. The situation becomes a dizzier moral dilemma, however, when she is forced to "impersonate" the recklessness of the greater evil lorey she wishes to exorcise.—Where the heck is the ice when you need her most?!

Santos' spine-tingler is far from original, but as it tweaks the narrative conceit that has made "Feast Desi'ssimo!" a box-office shooting film franchise, the movie finds innovative ways to establish an atmosphere of impending doom that keeps viewers on the edge of their seats. You feel that something gruesome is about to transpire, you just don't know how it will play out—or where!

The first hit All Seasons decided to make the film because she wanted to add something "new" to her formidable oeuvre—and, with "The Healing," Santos accomplishes exactly that.

Motivation

The role doesn't require her to do much except run in circles or look worried or scared. But, she—Stephen Rudeo of dramatic brilliance when she is haunted by guilt, a motivation that prevents her with tasks in the road that just might lead to the realization of the horrifying story's main conflict.

More than anything, it's a treat to see the durable actress on the big screen again. The horror-thriller genre she dabbles in effortlessly introduces her to a younger (and wider) viewing demographic that derives pleasure from getting scared out of his wits.

As for Kim, Rubio manages to enhance the demonizing squeakiness of her voice—she now looks (and sounds) her age. Unfortunately she's required to do more less than Ate Vi...which isn't a problem if it gives you pleasure to see two of the country's most popular female stars urinate their lungs out as they chase those pesky demons away!

Hilda's comeback is an unexpected gift

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME PEOPLE ask me if I'm a Newsman or a Villanueva, my answer invariably is: "Both ...I have no preference." That throws them for a loop—and some of them get really ticked off when I add: "By the way, I'm a Hildenian, too!"

Well, it's true. Having worked in the movies with Hero Aurora, Vilma Santos and Hilda Koronel, I've come to admire and relate their talents (and some of) their personal qualities, as well. ...Hence my "triangulated" appreciation for all three of them and their key contributions to thespic excellence in three parts.

Those thoughts came to mind today, because I've just heard that, after a long absence, the now 65-based Hilda has come home to play a nanny role in a Star Cinema-Ariel Ureta-Lloyd Cruz marvel for Star Cinema. I've missed Hilda so much that it's like Christmas in July-August for me. I couldn't be happier!

What accounts for my great delight? I've seen and savored all of Hilda's film, TV and stage portrayals through the years, and I've relished pink that she'll be adding another (hopefully exceptional) portrayal to her filmography!

Presence

I also hope that other show biz people get as excited as I am over Hilda's unexpected presence in our midst that they will offer her many enticing movie to stretch her "wedding bolobs" lines for some more months...before it's Halloween.

My movie memories are full of five portrayals by Hilda: Her "intimidating" performances in Lino Brocka's "Insiang," the "Mellow Soldier" episode in Brocka's omnibus gr Film, "Hello, Dolores, Jun," "Insiang," "Bing Miss gang: Ito'y Maglang," and I think from Hilda's exceptional cadres, I also admire her mouthgesture, bearing emotional heaving spit. I still don't like always told it like it was, no sugar-coating allowed, and I appreciate her bravery in an industry full of divisions who were past masters at the crafty art of double-, triple-, and serenpole-speak!

The unexpected gift of Hilda's return has also made me hope that our TV movie producers can realize what

ROKONEL. Hilda is back comeback in "The Heiress."

YOUR HOROSCOPE

sensational acting genres to grace our silver screens again...like the iconic Lolita Rodriguez, Shaleen Gandoo, Nikki Boas and Wenn Lim.

Exceptional actresses

If each of these exceptional actresses can come up with at least one new big screen portrayal each, imagine how much brighter our near-above but now-divorced movie screen would be! Well, are our dreams, can't we?

The great thing about Hilda's return is that it proves that, with the right project and persuasive gifts, even the other pipe dreams can modestly come true.

That can be guarded up further if film fans use the media and social network to assure producers that they will go out of their way to patronize the mind-blanking stars' new TV-film projects—starting with Hilda "indestructing" vehicle, Star Cinema's "The Heiress."

SANTOS. Topbills a Dreamscape Director's Showcase entry.

FANS' DAY

Pinoy cinema comes of age

By Jerry Olea

HERMAN DOLORIOSO, social secretary: "There was a big turnout on the opening day of the Cinemalaya

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'Amok' director returns to Cinemalaya

ANTONIO Pamaya, LUNCHTAY in "Pwasa."

By Andy Bais

ONE FILM season ago, director Lawrence Fajardo's "Amok" became one of Cinemalaya's most talked about entries—and his most important film to date. Will fight-ing stiffs again with "Pwasa"?

"Mukhang tapusin ang 'Amok,' but I'm positive that 'Pwasa' will be received as warmly. It has a familiar story that viewers can easily relate to."

Fajardo's latest film documents the frustrating experiences of a Quiapo snatcher (Nico Antonio)—when it's caught, the cops who arrest him. It's also a commentary on the country's justice system.

Lawrence doesn't want to be boxed into only one film genre: "Showing diversified treatment for each film that I do. From this (snatcher) film itself, one would expect all-out action or overkill as police brutality—pero hindi ito, kasi it's more effective—and realistic—when it's simple. Mahalaga rin kasi ang maramdal, and I wanted a documentary feel."

Another take

He is happy with his lead actor's performance. He explains, "At his own, nag-research si Nico (angkol sa kanyang character. So, each time we shot, bago do na siya."

Last handpicked most of his actors to "Pwasa": "I didn't hold auditions. I did my own search for the actors to portray the characters in the film. I have no problem working with actors, whether they're big stars or not—kasi, kung sino ang mas nag-fit, 'yun ang kinuha ko."

Fajardo's film, which will be shown in theaters on August 15, is produced by Cinemalaya founder Jay Abello. Also starring in "Pwasa" are Wendy Valdez and Baruga Cuesta.

Soderbergh's drama explores the world of male strippers

By Hautant Torre

CHANNING TATUM himself said it best—"Women go to male strip clubs to watch their friends' faces turn red and to have a night of camaraderie with their girlfriends." This seems to apply to women who go to watch a movie about male strippers, as well, judging by the delighted shrieks of female viewers at a recent screening of "Magic Mike."

Helmed by the versatile Steven Soderbergh, the film stars Tatum as the titular character and the film was partly inspired by the actor's previous experience as an exotic dancer in Florida. Tatum once stripped for a living when he was 18, and he clearly hasn't forgotten how to work a crowd.

Tatum, Soderbergh and company know their audience well —us, yes, ladies (and gents), you are going to be seeing plenty (if allot), muscled and thonged male prohibitable onscreen. And not just courtesy of Tatum—the cast includes Matthew McConaughey, Alex Pettyfer, Matt Bomer, Joe Manganiello, Adam Rodriguez and professional wrestler, Kevin Nash. In short, you probably don't want to wait for this to come out on DVD. This mouth eye-candy deserves to be enjoyed on the big screen.

"Magic Mike" is about much more than just a bunch of physically athletic people dancing around and taking their clothes off, however. Pun, often blatant sex, sometimes serious, the movie is a refreshingly clear-eyed look into the world of male stripping.

Magic Mike, played with just the right balance of charm and insecurity by Tatum, is into construction, events management, and more importantly, dancing

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Jamora realizes dream project

By Rica Arevalo

MORE THAN just television commercial director, Marie Jamora, makes no secret of her longtime ambition to direct "big, Hollywood-style" movies.

She shares: "When I was young, I wanted to be a lawyer like my late dad and late mom. I was in high school. I wanted to be an architect, because I loved Lego. But, after my dad [who] made me his debut camera, something really special happened."

At stake, she took classes with directors Maribel Cinco Afuang and Gru dela Cruz. It was in the latter's unsparing class that "Bag Ospensivo" was developed. Jamora shares, "It's a tale about 'diamedres.' I brought the idea to film school (Columbia), and I then asked my

JAMORA. Puts premium on honesty

[illegible]

cameraman, Ramon de Veyra, to write it for me."

Music videos

She became a music video director by accident: "[Ely Buendia asked] me to endorse Eraserheads' 'Maskara' video, then Rannard Mananzan wanted me to be the director of Sandwich's first music video...and Independents also got me to direct their first video. So, it was an avalanche of music videos—and it never stopped!"

She has always wanted to make feature films, but it took her this long to realize her dream project: "I have never been happier in my life. That is all I want to do...being on the set and making the creative decisions! In music videos and commercials, you're always the slave of the client. I'm happy here, because I'm not compromising my choices."

The film stars Iza Calzado, Bubuy Garcellano, Dominic and Iya Villania, Amelinda Dalmacion, Mickey Cobarrubias, Marc Abaya, Jenny Jamora, and Valentina Glenn.

Pinoy cinema comes of age

Pentscape F3

ronny 'Mga Munsenyong Libido,' as CEO. The viewers were mostly young adults hankering for sexiness and tolerant movies. Indeed, this local movie industry has come of age with the advent of the indies. There are a breath of fresh air after the usual romantic flicks and slapstick comedies."

Other views:

Lily Heredia, physical therapist: "I am a Sharon Cuneta fan, and I like watching her new talk show on TV5. However, it looks like she has some catching up to do 'against' Kris Aquino, whose show is livelier and more interesting."

"Sharon reads her spiels and doesn't share any much information from her guests. She also tends to be too 'attached' to her guests, crying and laughing with them, and sometimes leaves her objectivity. She should do more celebrity interviews to get more people to watch her show!"

Lulu Hemedez, student: "The MTRCB's plans to implement a rating code 'to get TV networks to tone down graphic scenes of sex and violence in the news and other programs while setting aside 15 percent of their airtime for child-friendly programming should be commended. It's high time we put a stop to local news programs' preference for blood and gore over more important news items!"

Rene Bagas, computer programmer: "I'm glad that the show 'Untalk Show: Showbiz Central,' has been put to rest. We have too many such shows, and it's sad to watch starving celebrities reading barbs on competing networks."

E-mail hotmail@yahoo.com

Bones of contention

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR RECENT article on intrusive television elicited a lot of reactions, many of them agreeing that we, as TV people should be on that best behavior, because their shows enter our viewers' homes. Of course, current practice is far from that ideal, hence the need for much more self-regulation to this regard.

On the other hand, some TV people have responded by pointing out that viewers are "overdosing" the broadcast industry with too many "extra" duties and responsibilities that shouldn't be imposed in it.

For one thing, some viewers say that TV should be an alternative "teacher" of young children, but some broadcasters point out that teaching is the responsibility of parents and teachers, not theirs.

Educational and even instructional television is an actuality in some countries that don't favor "free" TV, but go in for "fee TV," that, the local TV system is headed by the money-and-TV personalities with their ruling sponsors' commercials, so entertainment should be its major concern, not education.

...What's your opinion regarding this reality today?

Contentious topic

Another contentious topic is stars' loss of privacy, which stems from—true and untruth-ful—everyone to gossip or get "deliciously" shocked by and entertained on—and on.

Some industry insiders shrug, "It comes with the territory. When you become a public figure, you surrender your right to privacy to the media and the public—it's just said parcel of your 'courtesy' with them. So, if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!"

On the other hand, there are some luminaries who believe that the only thing they owe the public is a good performance—So, who's right?

Personally, we favor the "good performance" advocates' mind because, frankly speaking, we find most stars' lives, and even their most outrageous and unselfish sins and scandals, stunningly predictable and boring.

What happens below their navels is of as no interest to us—but, if they don't come up with good performances, our right to consumer entertainment is flouted, so they won't hear the end of it.

Frankly, the only time we were shocked by a local show biz scandal was when we heard that a midget's wiener was removed to have—a sex video!

Another bone of contention as per views or readers' feedback: The 2012 Metro Manila Film Festival's predictably commercial lineup of official entries —three entries (at least now) that

SATURDAY Special

Eddie Garcia, Roco twins turn in exceptional portrayals

By Rito P. Asido

THE RECORDING of one Cinemalaya movie marathon this year was the Sean sequences. Last Saturday, at Greenhill, the first two screenings we attended (Joey Reyes' "Respainter" and Mes de Guzman's "Babae") wrapped after 20 minutes, so we decided to submit our ticket for the third title on our list, because we didn't want to risk another marching no-show—which was a pity because both films began exceedingly well.

We were especially drawn to De Guzman's newly domestic drama, because its chief visuals and engaging premise transported us to the gloomy world of old Mom Laring (Ana Quintanilla), who sleeps restlessly in a monotonous, disinteresting shadows run-down room box.

Lonely protagonist

Her story continued to unfold when we watched the film again, this time in its entirety, at Trinoma—where the digital image looked perplexingly darker than the story of the lonely protagonist and her live scene.

Quintanilla's luminous turn is just one of many standout performances in the eighth edition of the eagerly anticipated indie festival. While it's true that the themes of this year's entries are more cunningly diverse, last year's films were better realized—even the underwhelming "Cochero" and "Boatista."

This year, two of our top picks come from the Directors' showcase—Jun Lana's "Bwakaw," about an old man and his constant canine companion, and Lawrence Fajardo's "Pusit," on police corruption and brutality—while four are from the New Breed section—Vincent Sandoval's "Sparkwave," which tackles religious hypocrisy, De Guzman's "Diablo," Arnou "Respainter" and Shaira Amores's exhilarating "Ang Sirena sa," about guilt and the redeeming power of love in El nuevo barrio.

It's hard to beat Eddie Garcia's magisterial turn in "Bwakaw" as the curmudgeonly Boss, a closeted gay septuagenarian who finds comfort in the company of his loyal mutt pet, who leftover him wherever he goes. Soxy Topacio and the pitch-perfect Joey Paras are also exceptional as Eddie's doting and fleetingly feisty caregiver.

In Arnou's "Respainter," coming-of-age romance, "Ang Manunubos," Dominic Roco delivers a well-honed performance as Gilbert, who copes with guilt by going nude after he witnesses the death of his twin brother, Jamie (portrayed with similar dumpy fierce by Dominic's real-life twin, Felix). He gets his chance at redemption when he falls in love with Enid (the refreshing Jennifer Redmond), who still carries a torch for her love-fizzling ex-boyfriend.

As seen during the harrowing credits of rape and the mildly-jarring limitations imposed on them by their domestic existence, Mylene Dizon, Judy Ann Santos, Iza Calzado, Agot Isidro and Jessica de Belen, in "Respainter," illustrate how—once—sex can be a manipulative politician who turns a high-profile crime into a win-generating opportunity. Olga Natividad bumps up "Mga Dapit" seamlessly, offsetting sternness and sentiment-coddling.

Patrick Sugui is compelling as a pill-popping but remorseful Glen Nunez clenching "The Animals." "Santa Niño" benefits from its fine ensemble, led by Coco Martin, directorial de Rossi, Angel Aquino, Lui Manansala and Ariel Ureta.

Irene Jurilacy ng Ruby (that "au" derives in the suffocating squalor of poverty pass, but Lt Reyes, who plays Dil de Guzman's frozen finish, is a soothing presence—and a lovely revelation.

GARCIA—Makes viewers laugh and cry as "Bwakaw."

TGLT 5 years have discovered quite a few really promising singers.

Subjectivity occasionally mars TV talent search

By Nestor U. Torre

HI! "I Survey Philippines" last July 21, the jurors took 171 surviving auditionees to the next level, dividing them into males, females, over 25 and group-numbers.

The talents in each category were then given the same song to learn and perform—and they generally did quite poorly, prompting the four celebrity judges to express their disappointment, in one form or another.

From where we sat, however, we thought that the show missed part of the "fusion" for the semifinalists' poor showing, because it did not give them enough time to learn, absorb and figure out how to interpret the new song that had just been assigned to them.

Now, it could be that the TV talent search was trying to see how its new talents would do if they had to perform under time pressure, as they would reveal their toughness "under fire."

Show biz is a really tough business, as the television stars have been OK—but, if the time restrictions severely affected the quality of the performances the new hosts came up with, then it wasn't right.

Auditions

How and relatively untested talents shouldn't be budgeted in a reality-cup talk? a good audition—canned; they should be encouraged and helped. The stress factor can be not as X, but a big factor, and that works against rather than in a new kid.

Having said that, we've watched the show enough times since it began rebranding for us to be able to objectively observe that in the past, five weeks of rebranded auditions, it has discovered quite a few really promising singers.

On the other hand, the jurors have made some mixed choices that have come off as too subjective by half. They were motivated by the desire to discover "different," "idiosyncratic" or even "fun-and" singers, perhaps thinking that it's the unique and effective-well quality that will make them stand out in viewers' perceptions.

But, this can be unfair to the contestant, into outsiders for its own sake, and such "unique" talents may be initially charming or shocking, but they can't hold viewers' attention for long, especially when the competition gets unfamiliar against each other and real singing talent has to rule the day.

Now, about those really promising talents that the show has unearthed: We hope that none of them survived last July 27's cut and weren't unfairly eliminated due to the stress and time-pressure factors that were made to come to bear on the competition.

However, if upon reflection and review, the jurors realize that a really good bet was eliminated, they should be honest enough to admit that they made a mistake, and invite the unfairly screened-out talent back.

There's a precedent for that in the original ID show, when Jimmy Gonell passed on a good talent, realized what a big mistake he'd made, and courteously asked him to rejoin the group of finalists that he was mentoring.

FACTS! P2

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Jeremy Renner: Filipinos made 'Bourne' filming in Manila 'wonderful'

RENNER: Four action-packed days in Manila

LOS ANGELES—"Do you know any cousins there?" Jeremy Renner jokingly asked me when I introduced that I am from the Philippines, but once sitting on the impression that Filipinos seem to have lots of relatives—everywhere. Jeremy is poised to become a full-fledged action star in "The Bourne Legacy."

Whether running across rooftops in San Andres, Manila, making daredevil maneuvers while driving a motorcycle on Ba-nuas Magsaysay Blvd. or strolling a dente in the Tandoan Market, grabbing an (kabobs), Jeremy affirms a new action hero in Aaron Cross. The actor compellingly plays an operative who must flee and battle to save his life when a top secret program he's a part of is terminated, and everyone involved is ordered eliminated.

Rachel Weisz and Dr Marta Shearing (Rachel Weisz), a research scientist for a pharmaceutical giant, his off in the Philippines, when the final 40 minutes of the film take place. Judy Greer, who directed from the original story he wrote, shares filming gecko stories from his cast, which includes Edward Norton, Oscar bear and talented Filipino actress

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Rolfew V. Nepomuceno

shooting scenes was in extreme poverty—then, you go to these islands that seem separated from the heavens, with the gorgeous colors of the ocean! Beautiful islands! For over seven. Whatever water sport you could do, you'd want to do it there, it's gorgeous!"

When Jeremy was asked about the on glamorous aspects of playing a spy, he shared his anecdotes about shooting the film's thrilling motorcycle chase scene with Rachel, which ends at the National Pick Pot Complex.

"There's a scene when the motorcycles goes down," he began. "While we were shooting that, we were getting dragged across the concrete floor in the fish market. We slide and come to a stop. I look over at Rachel and still if she's okay. She looks at me like, 'We're OK!' But, I look at her and I'm like, 'Did you throw little rubber stuff—dead fish under—everywhere, in her nose, even on her teeth."

Laughing, he remarked, "We realized that there's nothing glamorous about this job, even for an actor playing a spy."

Interestingly, Jeremy claims that his actress role, from William Brandt ("Mission: Impossible"), Hawkeye ("Thor" and "The Avengers") to Aaron Cross, make him uncomfortable—and that's why he does them. "That's kind of a requirement for me to wanting to go to work," said the actor who studied Filipino style fighting. "If I was comfortable and knew exactly what was going to happen, that would be uninteresting to me."

"I never thought I'd be doing these things for me as a career," he admitted. "But, I'm very blessed and honored to have been a part of this film. It has been a wonderful learning experience, mentally and physically."

More character

The Oscar and Golden Globe nominated actor claimed that he didn't feel uneasy starting in a "Bourne" movie, because he was not replacing Matt Damon as Jason Bourne, but playing a new character.

The challenge lay elsewhere, he said. "The only pressure for me was that the movie could have gotten a big disservice if I couldn't perform physically what was expected of me."

Jeremy, one of his generation's finest actors, has stated that terrific remakes-filled scenes with Oscar bears, who plays another operative.

Tony said the tension between the two spies during each other say might have been helped by the fact that Oscar was also considered for the Aaron Cross role. Jeremy then-played that factor. "It makes a good story, but those scenes work, because Oscar is a tremendous actor," he stressed. "And we had great writing."

With the film's emphasis on increasing performance enhancing pills to create better warriors, Jeremy was asked what he would like to enhance in him self. "The ability to go to sleep faster," he quipped with a laugh. "I would love to be a somnolepe, for sure. I would love to just be able to pass out when I need to."

On how he keeps himself centered amid his intensely busy schedule, Jeremy said he craves for "time alone—that is always nice. In a world like this, you are having conversations with hundreds of people all the time. In it, it's wherever I can get a private moment. And movie is always great for me. I bring headphones with me everywhere."

And, how does he reward himself? "Naps and more sandwiches," he chilled with a chuckle.

Jeremy seems to talk about his career for what he's heard, Jeremy whose upcoming films include "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters" (in) and Gemma Arterton play the title roles, 13 years after their gingerbread house "mistress"), directed by Tommy Wirkola, "I have never allowed myself to think far into the future, the next best good a due. I was never good at looking backwards—at the past—either. I was always good at being present. I never, ever may I would really enjoy my life."

E-mail rmvquiz_5580@yahoo.com. Follow Ann at http://twitter.com/rapidcurabas.

Sampaguita colleagues bid Dolphy goodbye

By Leila Salvador Pineda

HOW DO you say goodbye to one of your own? Dolphy started his movie career in Sampaguita Pictures in 1952 when Dr. Jose R. Perez cast him as a dancer in the musical film "Dahil Sa Isang Bulaklak," starring Pancho Magdalena and Tita Duran. It was the former who introduced him to Doc Perez after seeing him perform in a vod-e-vil stage production.

Dolphy performed his roles so well that, after the three more pictures, he was signed up to exclusive contract with Sampaguita, to, where he appeared in 67 movies between 1952 and 1963. When his contract expired, he went on to produce his own films under RVQ Productions.

New medium

He honed his craft on the new medium, television. The long-running TV series, "Dolphy on Martha," was followed by

THE COMEDY king made it a point to share his blessings.

the variety show "Sabay Sabay," and the sitcom, "Home Along Da Bilos."

Interspersed with these commitments were his projects with RVQ and independent movies like Lito Shimizu's "Ang Talaya Kong Buong," where he was nominated for an Urian, and "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" through all these, he never skipped shooting his "blessings" with friends and relatives who sought his help.

His sons came when Dolphy was no longer with Sampaguita. In my hometown, the owner of a theater for which my son, Cesar, was working as a banker was determined to screen one of the comedy king's films for his kits. Cesar was desperate to get hold of the film...or he'd be at risk of losing his job!

I had never asked Dolphy a favor, but I went to MIS-CIS, where he was saying his weekly mass. After the mass, I told my problem, he told me that the administration complicated, because it involved movie contracts and the "cover people" of the people involved—but, he said he'd see what he could do to help. Because of Dolphy's intervention, I kept his job. Dolphy also brought regulars our partners/coaching lectures in film exhibitions!

That's why I couldn't help but think of how the well-loved comedian would've reacted had he been alive during the dinner for Sampaguita on the 81st birthday of his mother last July 12, which was hosted by the Vera-Perez children, Maridito, Pepito, Gina, Lili (both), Chona and Gene.

Emcee

The lady Bilos had just ended when an award was presented by former President Joseph Estrada to Tin Tin and Eric Quizon, who represented Dolphy's family. Marietta was the emcee, and the celebrities present included Orestes Ojeda, Lilia Dizon and Au-Disney Cabido.

When Eteche Sensoleto took over as emcee for the eulogy, Johnny Litz led us out of the chapel and proceeded to another room reserved for the family members. Lilia Dizon and Au-Disney Cabido, Lolit Solis with Mila del Sol, Delia Razon, and Letty Alonzo Montenegro (Marvin's mother).

At another table were Bert Gilang, Brigette Lorca, Pepito and Rissel Rodriguez, Bella Flores, Itos Alano and Zoza Zabala. From

LEGENDARY: Dolphy's fiancée Vera-Perez (3rd-5 from left), with daughters, Lilibeth, Mercy (4th) and Gina.

a distance, I could discern my friends, Susana Moore, her daughter, MTRCB chair Grace Cruz-Dumaraos, Barbara Perez, Ruben Ayvado and Daisy Romualdez.

Canonization

I was approaching the buffet table when I sensed a commotion involving some ecumenical people that hit the tabloid headlines a few years ago!

Now, who was it who said that Sampaguita Pictures only made musicals, love stories and dramas?

If Dolphy were alive, he would surely say that the studio was also good at comedies. Haha...with a cause, it was a the end!

P.S.: Boys Gina de Venecia and Bernadette Herrera-Dy have filed Human Resolution No. 2581 according the Congressional Medal of Excellence to Rodolfo Vera Quizon who died in July for his outstanding accomplishments as a stage, television and movie actor in over seven decades, during which he reigned as the country's one and only Comedy King!

ECHO PRESIDENT PHILIP HAZAREESINGH AND SHOCK. Strait-up partners.

Joint project

STREET SMART
Mandy Navasero

EIGHT SCHOOL Manila's head teacher, Janet Brock, spoke at the weekly meeting of Rotary Club Makati Southeast (MCSE) at Asian Hotel last Wednesday. The club and school are offering a scholarship to an exceptional 9-year-old Filipino student every year for five years. Visit kings.org.ph, or call 478-9805.

Principles

Ms Brock narrates a touching philosophy that puts a premium on leadership and development anchored in the principles of honesty and integrity.

She is inspired by Dorothy Law Hehe's poem, "A Life is Your Hands." Excerpts:

If a child lives with criticism,
he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility,
he learns to be fight.

If a child lives with ridicule,
he learns to be timid.

If a child lives with shame,
he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance,
he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If children live with assurance and friendship, they learn to find love in the world.

Subjectivity . . .

From page G4

If memory serves, the female who singer who was given a new lease on life ended up doing very well indeed in the OB's "Final Finale."

The operative bet is: Really good new talents is exceedingly hard to come by. So, if you've let one slip through your fingers, you have to own up to the oversight and give her or him the second chance to shine that his or her exceptional talent deserves.

Beyond healing

LOTUS POND
R. Valencia and S. Bernardo

EVERY TIME our teacher says in the morning, we always check how we're feeling physically first, then's come around we often overlook—our spiritual condition.

After all, what's the use of exercising, eating healthy, watching your diet and acquiring material things if we don't progress spiritually?

Cancer patient

It's sad to see people throwing their lives away just that can be changed. One time, a young cancer patient who was given less than a year to live approached a spiritual teacher, who told him, "You wanted many years of your life—but, you are still achieve spiritual progress."

The young man suffered his remaining time for spiritual growth. His health began to deteriorate, and when he started meditating, he found peace by chanting God's names. Then, he started counseling other cancer patients.

He was in physical pain, but he felt stronger because he found strength in the love of the Supreme Person.

The people who took care of him gave his inspiring transformation. Like him, we should monitor our physical and spiritual well-being—and work hard to attain strength that cannot be taken away by old age or disease!

'The Newsroom' . . .

From page G3

the award-laced of comedy and classic pieces, boxes, wedges, soup bowl and sloppy high-heeled numbers.

Special bonus

Super Bowl of China presenter a special added bonus treat for Filipino lovers in celebration of its 110th anniversary. From Aug. 1 to Aug. 31, customers can enjoy double savings for the price of one of its delicious treats or opt for a 50 percent discount on a single order of dimsum via the new and improved Bing Pond Discount Double Deals promo!

Indulge in your favorite dimsum with any of Super Bowl of China's signature fried rice dishes or pair them with Chinese tea. Double Deals! with Sky Cable, Bib Blue cable card, Indosat Matrix, seafood chopsuey, sweet and sour pork, birthday noodles, deep fried pork ribs with spicy salt, sweet and sour fish fillet and crispy noodles with assorted seafood.

Michelline Syjuco

Ongoing until July 31. Now

gallery hosts to the artworks of Michelline Syjuco at Rockpaper Mills, 2300 Chino Roces extn. Visit www.mosgallery.net.

'On The Money' on ANC

On Monday, July 30 at 3:30 p.m., the ANC channel is launching a personal finance show, "On The Money," to answers with information and advice on how to better manage their funds. The program will be anchored by Edric Monilove, Sabre Dagdita and Melissa Gordoza.

'Jesus My Savior'

Lester Delgado will launch his latest composition/arrangement of Max songs, "Jesus My Savior" at 7 tonight at the St. John Manor Hotel. A Kamuning-based, Makati City

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 10 p.m., "Wednesday." July 29 at 9:35 p.m., "Inception." July 30 at 11:30 p.m., "The Kingdom." July 31 at 2:05 p.m., "True Grit." Aug. 1 at

More unsolicited . . .

From page G3

Truly dramatic

Interviewers who like watching truly dramatic performances instead of merely melodramatic approximations thereof should keep an eye out for "Rimsky," which began airing on July 18 on ABS-CBN.

Last year, we lauded newcomer Martin del Rosario for his felt portrayal on "E Boy" and wondered when he would be given an even bigger role. On "Rimsky," he's really coming to pass on "Rimsky," because Martin plays to young male lead, from start to finish.

He's cast as a student who falls in love with his teacher (Dimples Romana). Lucky for Martin, Lucasta and Lucy aren't his only struggles to verify their love for each other, despite the many pressures on them to desist.

Since both Martin and Dimples are sensitive actors, huge uprisings have the potential to still end up as one of the year's more dramatically touching shows.

More unsolicited advice

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW THAT Solar TV News has gotten the exclusive services of acclaimed news anchor and interviewer, Pia Hontiveros, for its nightly newscast, we hope that the one-straight program is only the first of a series of moves to show that Solar has what it takes to compete with the big boys...and girls...of TV news and public affairs.

For starters, Solar's nightly news program has made a positive impression on viewers who were not necessarily in dread of the melodramatic newsnews screenings of insignificant minors, accidents, altercations and gang-related revelations often found in channels' newscasts.

In addition, Solar News should come up with incisive special reports and analyses that delightfully help viewers understand the significant events happening around them, and the impact those events have on their lives.

Issues

On "Talking Hangyan," it's great that the chosen series is so popular that it's being extended, but its creators should worry about the overemphasis on comic and lacking of "heavy duwee, seem dun" which, this early, some viewers are already complaining about. After all, if you're already needed some heavyness and clamor issues, why belabor them all

HONG-CI

Viewers pick their favorite Hollywood actors

By Bobit Carvarosa

RECENTLY I asked patrons Kenny Cardoz who his top Hollywood actors were. He picked Gary Cooper among his favorites...not a bad choice since the lanky star is one of only a few actors who have won two Academy Awards for their performances.

Cooper was a co-star Lollobrigida who "complained" bitterly Hedy Lamarr and Natalia Neal after he starred with them. However, gentleman that he was, Gary was on him and left—he kept mum about his romantic exploits.

Nancy also selected Jeffrey Hunter because of his expressive eyes—he portrayed Jesus Christ in "King of Kings." The sensitive actor also starred in "No Place to Hide" with me way back Barbara Stwa.

For his part, Eugene Grade is partial to musicals—so, he chose Irene Bolly. He also cited Marlon Brando and Al Dacino, who both starred in Francis Ford Coppola's "Godfather" and Dr. Hannibal Lecter in the "Da The Silence of...."

Jose Mendoza, a board member of the UP Alumni Association, identified his choice as "that poor veiled actor." He was referring to Steven Seagal's brand of "no-nonsense action". "If he hits you, you're sure to be knocked out!"

COOPER. He was married.

'The Newsroom'

From page G4

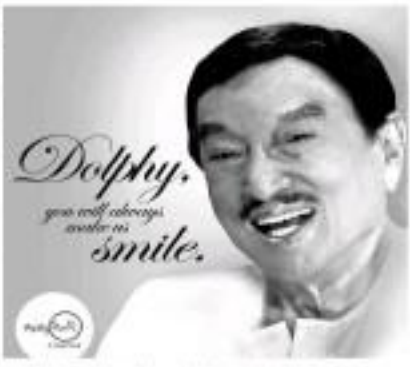
3:15 p.m., "Drink Forrest Bliss." Aug. 2 at 2:15 p.m., "Wanderlust." Aug. 3 at 3:15 p.m., "Ina by Invitation."

'Crooked Lines'

Corrine Hoy's fifth album, "Crooked Lines," has 13 songs including "When I Close My Eyes." It also features Corrine's favorite musicians like Ben Holstine and Craig McIntyre.

'Florante at Laura'

Border Ca. ting directs Emerapole The. ater's latest staging of "Florante at Laura," featuring Al Gamboloa, Ya. tsha Esmeloora, Jess Capitol, Ashin Jo. silva, CJ Manpaku and Leo Pena. ecca. Performances start on July 28. Call 998-5422, or visit www.garaloa. palatheatre.multiply.com.



Isay, Tirso, Dulce lead 'Katy!' revival's glittering stellar cast

ALVAREZ (left), with musical's lead players, (clockwise, from top left) Dulce, Quiz Jr., Pingkian and Cris

DULCE CRUZ. The country's foremost queen.

FORCE THEATER (now known as Spotlight Artists Center) was producing a revival staging of the iconic Filipino musical, "Katy!" – they remembered what would be tapped to play the show's challenging title role.

It takes forty dole Cruz (from her teen years to old age—a time span of some 50 years—or, the actress-singer who played Katy has to run the gamut of many dramatic upheavals in Katy's life, not to mention being the lead performer in more than 15 production numbers. Only a few talents can measure up to those challenging requirements, so the search for the new Katy was long and arduous.

Search

Happily, the search is finally over. Opening Katy in Spotlight's revival production of the CCP Little Theater in January 2013 is Isay Alvarez. Other lead players include Tirso Cruz III, Dulce, Tricia Aunor-Aurrock, Gian Magdangal, and Epi Quizon in the young Delphy.

Famous for Noynoy Toro ex-plains his choice: "Isay Katy agrees so much and experiences so many emotional challenges in her more mature years. It isn't likely that a singer-actress-dancer in her 20s or 30s can do full justice to the role. Experience, maturity, versatility and emotional insights are required."

Toro knows whereof he speaks, because he directed the great Mitch Valdes when she topbilled the iconic musical originally produced by Manila Theatre Philippines in the 80s.

His extensive stay of Isay goes back a long way, from her first starring role as Marissa in the standards iconic Filipino musical, "Magsimula Ka," to subsequent shows, like "Inner Laughing" and "Mga Anghel sa Lupa," and most recently in the acclaimed "Cruz The Musical," where the actress-singer was born.

Other credits for her incisive and heartfelt portrayal of the late and much-loved president, Corazon C. Aquino.

Isay's many other successes include her having originated the key role of Gigi in Rico stage production of "Miss Saigon" in London, after which she appeared in other musicals, plays, screen and TV dramas in Europe.

She could have had a great performing career over-seas, but her love for performing for her countrymen eventually won out, as she told her husband, Robert Arbas, came back for good around 15 years ago—and, to their great delight and infinite satisfaction, they haven't looked back since.

Both stars have been busy on the stage. To end his performances, and have shared even more of themselves with their audiences, and to paving up the performing arts academy, Spotlight debuts Dulce with Tirsco Aunor-Aurrock and Cari Bulaon—which Rio really has already produced a number of stellar standards.

Instructively, Spotlight has also gone into the revival of acclaimed genre of Filipino musical theater, like in his production of "Magsimula Ka," and now "Katy!," with standout script and lyrics by Ricardo Lee Reyes, memorable songs composed by Ryan Cayabyab, and musical direction by Mel Villena.

Spotlight fervently hopes that theater lovers will support its current efforts to boost original Filipino musicals, which are unfailingly being ardently urged to be foreign works.

To contribute to this important endeavor, sponsor a performance of "Katy!" at the CCP in January 2013, or secure block tickets, call 899-8889 or (0922) 895-9845.

DANIELS. Reprises Aaron Sorkin's new drama series.

MONTAGE

'The Newsroom' premieres Aug. 1 on HBO

BOYS NEW drama series, "The Newsroom," set at the fictional cable network ACN, premieres at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 1 Created by Aaron Sorkin ("The West Wing"), the series follows a TV news team on its quixotic mission to reclaim the proud legacy of Murrow and

WANLU AND ENCHONG DY. Every place...

Cronkite in the face of a fickle audience, corporate mandates, and crippled personal relationships. Stars include Jeff Daniels, Emily Mortimer and Sam Waterston.

Mark Bautista

Vox recording artist, Mark Bautista, recently triumphed at the recently concluded Tipa Philippines Pop (Philippe) Music Festival, where the song he inspired with the Akafellas was awarded the Grand Prize.

The song is "Buried Hallong," a underscore inspirational lines written by Akafellas member, Earl Villegas. It bested 1.5 other songs in the finals from a field of over 2,000 entries.

Meet Enchong Go

Known as the Intramuros Jeepney, Enchong Go is a high tech puppet that can be programmed, as well as operated by remote control. Sir Jose, Manila, a "Talmudong Pinoy" Kill of Fame, says Enchong Go is the first of its kind in Asia, having been made by Actwill Entertainment in California, USA.

Enchong is currently star of the Tahiti Jeepney in TV5's "Talmudong Pinoy Kids," which airs Saturdays and Sundays on TV5.

He is scheduled to visit schools in Metro Manila, Antipolo, Cainta and Cubao to spread environmental awareness among school children. Enchong will also fly to Singapore in September to greet the Asean Puppetry Festival. Visit www.wanlu.net.

Goodish opening

The grand opening of Goodish, Mercuryave, Bolocon Ind. Area 19 was a big and glamorous day for Boholeños, because the event was graced by Vice ganda, AJ Muhlach, Nadine Lustre and Ina Feolilo.

Mr. and Mrs. Hermie and Melon dela Cruz (franchisee owners) and their son, Brandon dela Cruz (managing director), welcomed their friends, friends and customers to Goodish.

Also present were Rep. Erasmo Rabbi-vina Jr., Cynthia Bohol, Governor Su, Mayor Arthur Aluvidez, Dindo Cuenca, Mayor Ignacio and Lucille Balajadi.

Grand flash

Boy Kennedy recently announced the finalists of the competition's new season. The Boy Kennedy Jazz competition. The finalists will compete at the Hard Rock Café, Glorietta 3, Makati City at 9 tonight.

They are David Rosh ("Ja-Mine"), Michael Gilvester ("Pyro"), Pagdilag"), Trixie Garcia ("Ba- Lady"), Nicole Cielo ("Shakeshia"), Chiqui Avella ("Heaven On Earth & You"), Kenia Capalayah ("Talk To Me"), Jannet Bolaquio ("Arvin Ahead") and JC Magsalin ("A Fall Life").

Rock 'n' Roll at Festival Supermall

It's a rock 'n' roll party in the south as two of the country's hottest rock bands, Sandwich and Polkadot, perform back-to-back at Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City on Saturday, Aug. 5, 4 p.m. at Carousel Court.

Sandwich is the award-winning band behind such hits as "August" and "DVBC". Polkadot has recorded three studio albums.

Rusty Lopez's big sale

Rusty Lopez is celebrating 25 years with a big sale until Sept. 16.

Deals can pick up leather and dress shoes while stocks still be pleased with the array of sandals, pumps and other classic and stylish footwear by work and be home. Bring a friend along and delight in

THE NEWSROOM (C)

For inquiries, please call 892-0000 local 526 or 541

TOURS Leisure & CHOW

Supplements Head Jong Arcano
Editor Chapin Medina

Abaca Resort is 'that restaurant with rooms'

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

LAPU-LAPU CITY—What do you do when you own a famous restaurant sitting on a 5,000-sqm beach property? You put up rooms and transform it into a full-blown resort, of course!

This is exactly how Abaca Resort's story goes. When Abaca was put up more than six years ago, it was mentioned only to be a dining establishment in Cebu where locals and tourists alike could feed sumptuous Continental and Filipino cuisines cuisines.

But as the restaurant gained a solid reputation, guests started asking if there were also rooms for guests to stay in. Soon, the Abaca owners felt compelled to accede to the growing number of requests. Talk about expanding your business offerings.

Today, Abaca has become a luxurious boutique hotel with eight gorgeous and sophisticated rooms that offer festive views of the ocean. Rooms to accommodate one could literally swallow the entire Department; the group has adopted numerous solutions to contribute to the development of hotel communities, reduce water and energy consumption and limit the environmental footprint of its hotels. With Planet 21, Accor is reinforcing its determination to put sustainable development at the heart of its activities. 21 meaningful and measurable commitments, anchored and underpinned in order to improve Accor's sustainability performance.

For these reasons, the new Planet 21 strategy includes a program to engage customers and inviting them to contribute to the hotels' actions and achievements. From making a contribution to shining and recycling in Accor hotels, customers will discover a rich and diverse array of messages that will encourage them to contribute actively to the hotel's actions through a few simple gestures. The tone of the messages will be friendly and thoughtful, aimed at inspiring customers to participate.

In addition, Accor will actively engage its hotel owners to bring more franchised and managed hotels into the Planet 21 program—improving sustainability performance and developing buildings that are constructed and operated in accordance with internationally-recognized sustainability best practices.

Accor will also share its commitments with suppliers, working with them to develop an ever-more sustainable products and services.

To guarantee the credibility of this program, hotels can only use the Planet 21 messages if they comply with a certain level of sustainable development performance, assessed according to a list of 65 criteria, or if they achieve an internationally recognized external environmental certification.

To develop Planet 21, Accor commissioned two unprecedented international surveys to obtain comprehensive and objective information about its footprint and guest expectations.

In 2011, the group carried out a study of its environmental footprint that enabled it to measure accurately its main impacts, define priorities for action and identify new challenges. This work was preceded by a survey measuring the expectations of international hotel customers, which showed that sustainable development is a growing selection criterion for both leisure and business customers.

According to this survey, for example, 67 percent of leisure guests take sustainable development actions into account when choosing a hotel.

Sophie Flak, executive vice president of Sustainable Development and Institutional Relations at Accor, added, "Today, 39 percent of our key account customers have integrated sustainable development criteria in their supplier policies, and one out of every two of these customers says they take this criterion into account when choosing a hotel. We used these findings to implement Planet 21, a program covering all our sound and environmental commitments, with partnerships that assist our employees and offer our customers an opportunity to participate."

With the launch of Planet 21, Accor is also deepening its focus on preserving the ecosystems in which its hotels operate. A pioneer in, reforestation, Accor has, since 2008, financed the planting of over 1 million trees worldwide, sharing the laundry cost savings generated through an innovative program that engages both hotel managers and guests.

Under the Diem for the Planet program, guests can decide to reduce the energy consumption by washing their towels every few towels reused. Accor commits to planting trees in one of several plantations around the world. To accelerate the rollout of this program, Accor is relying on the expertise of Tristan Lecomte, founder of Alter Eco and Pur Projet and an expert on the development of community innovation projects.

"Planet 21 aligns perfectly with Pur Projet's approach," said Lecomte. Accor's Planet 21 ambassador. "With the contributions made by their guests, hotels participate directly in protecting their environment and the development of local communities. It is easy to support the development of the program by integrating it more closely and more locally in the group's different business lines," he said.

With Planet 21, Accor aims to reinvent the hotel industry as a sustainable force by mobilizing its employees, guests and partners.

Organic and urban gardening workshop at Sugarleaf

BLUME with its mission to promote healthy living, Sugarleaf ... hosts find session recently partnered with the Organic Certification Center of the Philippines and held a workshop on organic and urban gardening. After explaining OCCP's mission, executive director Lani Llagas pointed the Sun to UP Los Baños-educated seasoned landscape consultant Beverly Cole who shared her vast experience in gardening. Supplied provided healthy snacks and guests went home with a basic seedlings and fertilizer. Another whole day excursion to organic-certified farms is in the cards. Batangas is being organized by Sugarleaf and OCCP today. Call Angelo at 09171-826-9826 or e-mail at angelo@sugarleaf.com.ph for details and reservations. Limited seats only.

OCCP executive director Lani Llagas with lettuce seedlings ready for transplanting

Busy week?
Kayang-kaya with this
7-day
Sun load!
sun
TEXT UNLIMITED
P60
Valid for 7 days
• Unlimited Sun texts
• 60 minutes Sun calls
• 100 texts to other networks
Text TU60 to 247
CALL DAVE ON HER SUN PHONE FOR TUESDAY MOVIE DATE
TEXT NICOLE ON HER SMART FOR THURSDAY MEETING
TEXT FAMILY ABOUT SUNDAY LUNCH
SUN CELLULAR PREPAID

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Experience splendid suites with Hotel H2O's new promo

FOR THOSE looking to stay indoors and pamper themselves during the rainy months ahead, Hotel H2O, the country's only marine-themed urban resort, has an irresistible deal for such "staycation" needs.

Dubbed "Suite Seasons," Hotel H2O-ites guests experience the best that the resort has to offer as rates that are decidedly sea-suite-like.

Hotel H2O houses all four types of suites. The Club Room, which measures 46 square meters and is with an in-room aquarium wall or jellyfish tank, offers queen-sized sea nests or a queen-size bed with plush linens, lavish suites with high-speed Internet access, flat-screen LCD televisions, and marble bath area with a jet pond tub. The resort's offer includes access to the hotel's exclusive lounge, Club H2O. All these at the night's promo rate of P7,000 net for single and P9,000 net for twin sharer.

Stretched atop the placid waters of Manila Bay, the Deluxe Suite spreads across 44 square meters of prime space. Spectacular views of the bay or cityscape complement the numerous amenities, including a queen bed, 40-inch LCD television, work desk with high-speed Internet access, and a capacious bath area featuring a free-standing bath tub, separate showers and guest bath.

There's also a receiving area where one can entertain visitors and which converts into an extra room with sofa bed for sleepovers. Guests enjoy full access to Club H2O lounge. This promo rate for the Deluxe Suite is P8,000 net for single and P9,000 net for twin sharer, per night.

The Premiere Suite has up to 69 square meters that encompass either a massive aquarium wall or jellyfish floor-to-ceiling views of Manila Bay. Luxury awaits in abundance, from the rich, wood-panel design to the posh upgraded amenities such as a queen bed, free-standing bath tub with separate shower, receiving area with coffee table, work station with high-speed Internet access, two flat-screen LCD television sets, bath tub, and full access to Club H2O lounge.

The promo rate of the Premiere Suite is P9,000 net (single) and P11,000 net (twin sharer) per night.

Finally, the Executive Suite epitomizes the ultimate in Hotel H2O's portfolio of guest rooms. From the entire premises to the concierge area, to the lavishly appointed amenities, to the attentive service and full access to Club H2O lounge, the Executive Suite has it all.

Standard features include oak wood panels, a queen bed with plush mattress linens, a receiving area with coffee table and sofa bed, a work station with high-speed Internet access, one flat-screen LCD television set, bath tub, and full access to Club H2O lounge.

Hotel H2O is at the Diamond Hotel Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. For reservations, call 551-1111 ext. 8000 and 8002.

Indulgence in the rain

FIND comfort in the rainy days as S Hotel welcomes you to luxury 'til 1st Boss who deserve it. As the weather stirs up, you can experience relaxation with the luxurious treats offered at S Hotel. Starting at P4,200 net, take pleasure in the "Spa Indulgence" accommodation where you will be pampered with an in-room aromatherapy spa massage, overnight accommodation, international breakfast buffet for two at Café Mod, and free use of Wi-Fi and pool. With the "Life's a Treat" accommodation, you will truly be spoiled by the lavish goodies in store for you. Starting at P3,900 net, an overnight accommodation is yours to experience together with an in-room dining treat for two at Café Mod, F&B gift cheque worth P400, and complimentary use of the Wi-Fi and pool. Your S Hotel experience cannot be complete without you trying out the scrumptious food that Café Mod and Bilinggo bar offer. Try the Chef's Special for the month and you will surely taste great food beyond imagination. Find enjoyment as you treat yourself with the Cajun Tilapia Fillet. Let the crispy savory tilapia fillet and the creamy flavors of whipped potato squash, string beans and pureed cream mushroom your taste buds at P175 net. Delight yourself with the Risotto Florentina and let the richness of traditional risotto paired with the modern flavors of mixed mushrooms, herbs, smoked bacon and homemade tomato kimlaon you had. As a hearty morning treat that you will undoubtedly enjoy at P225. And don't forget to take pleasure in every bite as you indulge in a gooey cocoa-marshmallow dessert, infused with vanilla at P170 net. Let every craving be fulfilled. For inquiries and reservations, call S Hotel Manila at 625-0888 or 1-800-10-MY-HOST (1-800-46968) for room reservations, or visit www.s-hotel.com.ph. S Hotel Manila is located at 2699 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Manila.

BSA Twin Towers hosts Miss World Philippines 2012 press conference

BSA Twin Towers Condominium Hotel hosted at St. Francis Square between Old Mogpog and The Podium hosted the presentation of Miss World 2012 Ten Binibining Pilipinas to showcase the Philippine beauty. Present during the event were other Miss World Philippines 2012 titleholders and MWP franchisee Cory Quirino. The event was held at the 32nd floor Function Room of BSA Twin Towers, the newest and premier establishment of St. Francis Suites and Resort. BSA Twin Towers is recognized as the Philippines' tallest twin towers by Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) Chicago. BSA Twin Towers recently included colorful changing lights on the pyramids on top of the towers. They are now considered a visual attraction in the Ortigas area. Both guests for overnight stay occupancy are entitled to free buffet breakfast and use of swimming pools. Call 914-2000 or 622-4141 local 131 or visit the booth face of St. Francis Square Mall, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Rainy day fun at Astoria Plaza

ASTORIA Plaza offers the best room deal this rainy season. For only P4,000 net, enjoy great moments with family and friends at Astoria Plaza's tastefully furnished one-bedroom suites or the roomier two-bedroom suite for only P5,000 net. To complete the getaway experience, the promo includes a complimentary signature massage at Regency Spa (one complimentary massage for a one-bedroom suite and two for a two-bedroom suite). Also, take advantage of the complimentary scheduled shuttle service to nearby malls in Ortigas Center. Rates are of the swimming pool and complimentary WiFi. This promo is available from July 1 to Sept. 30. For reservations, contact 681-1111 ext. 8000 and 8002.

Celebrate a Japanese summer at Makati Shangri-La's Inagiku

INAGIKU, the premier Japanese restaurant at Makati Shangri-La, offers an authentic collection of Japanese fare inspired by the season of *natsu*, or summer in Japanese. With the start of the sunny season in the Land of the Rising Sun, Japanese chef de cuisine Wataru Aikawa chooses this season to a collection of dishes, available until Aug. 29. The Summer Collection menu at Inagiku features unique and authentic Japanese culinary creations, such as *nijimasu shiru yaki* (grilled rainbow trout with salt); *Wagyu* tataki-zuke (thinly sliced Wagyu beef *Valentiko* style); and many seasonal delicacies that are snapped with each breakfast. For inquiries and reservations, please call the Restaurant Reservations and Information Center at 845-0884 or e-mail inc.slm@shangri-la.com.

August showers at Lancaster Hotel

LANCASTER Hotel Manila shares the warmth of sunny days even when it's raining outside. Conveniently located at Rizal Blvd. in Mandaluyong City, a few hundred meters away from the busy intersection of Crossing along EDSA, each suite encompasses a bevy of amenities which include workplete dining and kitchenette (like, cable wireless internet, XBOX 360 telephones, with readily connected air conditioning, hot and cold water, and broadband internet access in every guest room). Other attractions include a coffee shop, Lancaster Café, the 8L Sky Lounge overlooking the metropolis, plus the outdoor swimming pool that the whole family will surely enjoy. Lancaster Hotel's latest addition to the it quarter promo package, which offers a choice of treats like buffet breakfast for two, free movie tickets for two at the Podium, free exclusive Lancaster umbrella, Lancaster Hotel Internet connection, and complimentary shuttle service to Ortigas shopping malls. The other perks of special gifts also await courtesy of Tomasa, plus 10 percent off on all food and beverages at the Rizal Lancaster. Promo is on-going until Sept. 30. This shower package rate is inclusive of service charge and applicable government taxes. Prior reservations is required and subject to space availability. For more information, call (632) 532-1919, fax (632) 532-1928, or log-on to www.lancasterhotels.com.ph or send an inquiry to reservations@lancasterhotels.com.ph.

Diamond Hotel's special house names now at P499 + +

CHEVRON be something isn't doing the rounds this season? Then chances to save over steaming bowls of ramen filled to the brim with savory soup, fresh vegetables, tender morsels of meat and other delightful toppings at Yorokobi Japanese Restaurant, one of Diamond Hotel's premier dining destinations. The newly launched ramen selection is sure to satisfy your appetite. Warm your soul and be overwhelmed with Yorokobi's house ramen specials in different varieties, curated by Diamond Hotel's executive chef Shoichi Shiyasu and Japanese sous chef Raymond Ikeda. Please your palate with savings of Wagyu beef katsu, beef shoyu ramen, seafood miso, pork and chili minced pork, braised in sweet pork, and vegetable toppings to season. For only P499 nett per serving each bowl that it comes includes a half a portion of hearty noodles, steaming hot broth made from scratch, seasoned meat slices, and toppings such as egg, wood ear, bamboo, ginger sprouts, seafood, meat or vegetables. In every bowl, the taste ensures that you will savor the freshness and finest ingredients for an authentic, ramen experience. Each serving also includes a choice of any standard drinks. Experience a dining voice that is genuinely Japanese at Yorokobi, tucked as one of 2011's latest kitchen units by Filipino Celebrity Restaurateur Jessie Sulibar. Yorokobi has always lived up to its name as one of the best Japanese restaurants in Manila. Located at the ground floor of Diamond Hotel Philippines, it is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Diamond Hotel Philippines is located at Roxas Boulevard corner Dr. J. Bocobo St., Manila. For inquiries and reservations, please call at (632) 526-8888. For more information on Diamond Hotel Philippines, please visit www.diamondhotel.com.ph. For hotel updates and specials on offerings, follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/diamondhotelphilippines and Twitter at www.twitter.com/DiamondHotelPh.

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The cardinal scenes of CamNorte

It's a kayaking haven for those who want to challenge four-foot waves and navigate seven glorious islands

'A picturesque cove tucked behind Grande has a tranquil lagoon-like formation which will surely stir the innate poet and romantic in every wanderer.'

Text and photos
by Bernard L. Dupkiss

SUMMER may be officially gone with the onset of the rainy season, but that doesn't mean you have to wait long to be able to bask in the sunny day stuff we all enjoy.

In this Bicolo coastal town in Mercedes, Camarines Norte, the fun continues in its beguiling chain of scenic islands called "Three Wonders" because beach hopping to enjoy the sun, sea and sand. While many people can only do "island hoping" in more beach fashionable destinations (the "Bahagat" islands on the archipelago's western seaboard), travellers here can hop from one island to the next in the tranquil Pacific waters.

Situated less than an hour away from the Mercedes fish port, considered as one of the biggest in the Bicol region, the island group is perhaps among the best kept secrets of famed shores kept out of the radar of beach bloodhounds.

It has been kept so hidden that Apuao Grande, which once hosted Australian-owned resorts, was once misleadingly described as an "island in the Pacific."

Composed of Apuao Grande, Apuao Pequeno, Canton, Caromboy, Cantiga, Malasuegue, and Quinapaguian, the location is named to refer to the seven cardinal sins enumerated in the Holy Bible that for from the sinful nature from which it derives its name, the island group is a virtual heaven on earth with its pristine white sands and rays-inducing waters, minus the maddening crowd.

Closest to the mainland and the biggest of them all is Caromboy, which is characterized by rolling hillsides, jagged cliffs and sheer patches of unspoiled beaches.

About a mile away is Canton which has a similar topography but has a subterranean cavern that can be explored at low tide. Protruding rock skirts around it make the island the most postcard-pretty.

The islands of Cantiga and Quinapaguian boast of mile-long stretches of white sand beaches with gradual depths, making them ideal for swimming, even by children.

The gems de resistance are the twin islands of Apuao Grande and Apuao Pequeno which are separated by a very narrow and shallow channel due to ocean cuts a sandbar at low tide. A picturesque cove tucked behind Grande has a tranquil lagoon-like formation which will surely stir the innate poet and romantic in every wanderer.

The pine tree-dotted Pequeno, with the cool shade and wind-breaker effect it provides, is ideal for camping and barbecues.

A swimming distance across it is Malasigue, which has its rock formations are vegetation, but provides an unobstructed view of the site in all its splendor.

Most of the islands are uninhabited and they are to their owner area; pitching tents (waterfast is the only option) for overnight stays. Those who want to have a touch of "glamping" or "glamour camping" can get in touch with local tour operators for comfy tent facilities, catered meals and after dinner entertainment.

So charming are these islands that the municipal government has cut out A kayaking circuit in give island hopping a new dimension—paddling around the Bicolano boats instead of motorized banca.

According to Mercedes Mayor Alexander Bonoffo, the adventure activity was developed last year with the help of the Philippine Kayaking Association to promote the town as a kayaking haven for outdoor lovers who want to do eco-tourism activities. A 15-kilometer marathon from Cantiga to Bayboy beach was held as part of its municipal founding day as well as the Kadagatan Festival which celebrates the bounty of the sea.

Palarong says that come Aug. 8 to 7, the town will hold another 21-kilometer race, this time from Apuao Grande to the mainland to bolster its position as a sports tourism site in the Bicolandia.

For those who don't want to go for the three is Bayboy beach where they can literally get their feet wet with the activity water sport.

The beach, which shares the same shoreline as the famed surfing area Bagasbas Beach in Daet, is gaining popularity as a budding surfing spot. Getting past four-foot waves without capsizing will test the mettle even of seasoned paddlers. But the fun part of it is actually falling off your boat and living to tell the tale.

Yielding to the temptation of the cardinal sinners of CamNorte won't lead to the road to perdition, but to a slice of heaven in this unexplored hideaway.

For more information on, find Getaway to CamNorte and Mercedes 101 on Facebook.

APUAO Pequeno camp site

KAYAK surfing in Mercedes

APUAO Grande

50% off on bottomless drinks at Eastwood Café

FOR A limited time, Eastwood Café makes buffet dining even more enjoyable by offering bottomless drinks at 50 percent off.

The café's sumptuous buffet line-up consists of mouth-watering appetizers and hot items, tasty meats and seafood at the carving and grilling stations, freshly cooked Japanese temptations, Italian pastas and Mongolian barbecue at their respective stations, plus sweet endings at the dessert counters and ice cream cupcake-ule corners.

For an unlimited serving of Kirin beer, pay only P400 net. (Choose from three refreshing specially chilled ice varieties: pandan, lemongrass, and citrus). Eastwood Café presents even greater value for your money with this limited time available only with every buffet order from July 6 to Oct. 31.

Eastwood Café's lunch and dinner buffets are priced at P1,000 net per person, and are served daily from 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., and every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., respectively. For inquiries and reservations, please call 576-7777.

Eastwood Café is located at the lobby level of Eastwood Richmonde Hotel, 17 Orchard Road, Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City. Eastwood Richmonde Hotel is found beside the new Eastwood Mall, with access at the second floor. For more information, log on to www.richmondehotel.com.

AT MAKATI SHANGRI-LA'S CIRCLES EVENT CAFÉ

Superhero chefs show off their culinary mettle

IT WAS turned out to be a culinary battle of seats—and just under one hoisted roof.

Makati Shangri-La, Manila's hotel chefs are unleashing their superhero cooking talents to create authentic buffet specials of different cuisines at Circles Event Café from Aug. 8 to Sept. 4.

Every night of the week is a feast at Circles Event Café with a highlighted cuisine presented each evening, featuring the authentic specialty dishes of each superhero chef.

Superhero chef-hatted "The Israeli" (Ilanit Regina), the newly-arrived Middle East expert, is back in Asia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

True to his kitchen superhero alter ego, superhero chef Franco "Casanova" Medina grows all his love in preparing an authentic buffet of appetizing Italian dishes every Tuesday evening while Friday is his night.

Chef Franco is the executive chef of Makati Shangri-La, and has been creating a gastronomic array of dishes for the hotel for over two years. Chef Franco's culinary experience spans over two decades, and includes nine years as head chef in prestigious restaurants in parts of Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

The night of superhero chef Ante "El Bigante" del Prado is witnessed as he brings out a fiesta spread of Filipino cuisine for true food lovers to indulge in. Chef Dene is one of the executive sous chefs of the hotel and oversees the day-to-day operations of the hotel's specialty restaurants.

He also leads the culinary team in creating delectable delights for the hotel's in-house dining outlets and for special events and functions.

Dante's silicone looking for a spicy way to end the day should try superhero chef Sovan "Bollywood" Singh's authentic Indian dishes every Thursday evening at Spice Up, India! Lovers of Indian cuisine need not look far for an authentic taste of the tropics, as Sovan prepares India's signature dishes in an appetizing spread.

There is an festive way to celebrate the end of a workweek than with an indulgent gastronomic feast. Guests may start the weekend with a gustatory celebration as chef Yanko "Seafolic" Hoo cooks up the freshest seafood catch on Friday evenings at Seafood Market.

Chef Hoo—comes from a family of chefs, and brings with him years of culinary experience specializing in seafood dishes. Guests can enjoy dumpa style of eating by choosing the seafood of their choice and having them cooked just the way they want it.

Guests may feast with a luscious spread of grilled favorites by superhero chef Marco "The Prime" Buenaja, who takes on grilling duties for Saturday evenings' Off the Grill. Guests can indulge in the highest grade of steaks and barbecue selections, with favorites such as prime rib eye, lamb chops and T-bone steaks to name a few.

Marco is an executive sous chef in the hotel, who has also earned years of culinary experience in various parts of the world, specializing in various cuisines.

Finally on Sunday, guests may enjoy the family day at Circles Event Café's Sunday Big Brunch with the creations of superhero chef Anthony "The Brancher" Cellan. It's time to indulge in breakfast favorites prepared by the hotel's own executive pastry chef, and enjoy the most luscious dessert dishes to cap a hearty meal.

Guests are encourage to vote for the superhero chef of their choice by filling out a raffle stub every time they dine at Circles Event Café between Aug. 8 and Sept. 4 for a chance to win a lunch or dinner buffet good for 20 persons. For inquiries and reservations, please call the Restaurant Reservations and Information Center at 813-8888 extension 7999 or e-mail rric.slm@shangri-la.com.